Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Man gets 28 years for 'ice' trafficking. PAGE 2
Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent hike. PAGE 3

4 major bollards ready to collapse at Tinian harbor

» Admin orders emergency repair
» Delegation OKs $500K reprogrammed funds'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian airport and seaport manager Joseph Mendiola disclosed yesterday that four major bollards at the Tinian harbor are ready to collapse anytime soon, a situation that would critically hamper the operation of the island because it will render the harbor incapable of accommodating bigger shipments such as fuel tankers.

A bollard is a short, thick post on the deck of a ship or on a wharf, to which a ship's rope may be secured.

Mendiola said the Tinian seaport has several bollards of which many are in poor condition and need replacement. However, four major bollards are in a real state of emergency because they may soon render the harbor incapable of accommodating bigger shipments, he added.

Mendiola said that acting gov-

See BOLLARDS on Page 4

New CNMI stamp to be issued in Aug.

» Public invited to dedication ceremonies at Multi-Purpose Center

HONOLULU—The U.S. Postal Service will officially dedicate the new Northern Mariana Islands *Flags of Our Nation* stamp during a special First Day of Sale ceremony at 10am on Thursday, Aug. 11, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

See STAMP on Page 4

TABLE TOP EXERCISE FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controller Leif Wigman-Nilsson observes some of the participants plotting on a navigational chart during yesterday's Search and Rescue Table Top Exercise held at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room.

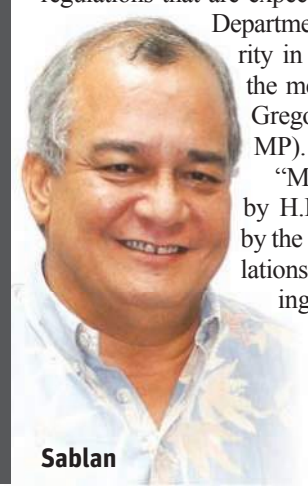
See story on Page 6.

KILILI ON 'EXCLUSIVITY' OF HR 1466

'Most not covered will be under CNMI-only worker regs'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nonresident workers who won't be granted status under H.R. 1466 could be allowed to remain in the CNMI through the transitional CNMI-only worker regulations that are expected to be released by the Department of Homeland Security in September, according to the measure's author, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).


Sablan

"Most people not covered by H.R. 1466 will be covered by the CNMI-only worker regulations that DHS says are coming out soon," said the two-term CNMI delegate in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

CW regulations are

See MOST on Page 4

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Top Chef
Melquiades De Ramos of Fiesta Resort & Spa is crowned Saipan's Next Top Chef.

LOCAL...Page 6

Sportwear
Fitting a fit frame is not always easy. Women with athletic builds have their own set of dressing challenges.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

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Local

‘Papasang’ gets 28-year sentence for ‘ice’ trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese national tagged by authorities as a big-time “ice” supplier was slapped with a 28-year prison sentence yesterday after being found guilty of all 10 charges.

The 45-year-old Qun Yu was also directed to pay a $10,000 fine and $100 court assessment fee.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman said the mandatory 25 years imprisonment for trafficking of a controlled substance is not unreasonable in view of the egregiousness of Yu’s acts and the danger he presents to the community.

The judge cited how Yu engaged lawmen in a high speed car chase along Middle Road from Gualo Rai to Sadog Tasi and then south to Chalan Kiya as they were about to arrest him on Aug. 4, 2010. Yu’s Toyota Land Cruiser later crashed into a septic tank.

During the pursuit, Yu, who is also known as Papasang or Jay, was seen waving a pistol in the car, Wiseman said.

Yu does not have a prior criminal convictions but he was charged in 2007 with six counts of drug related crimes. The government dismissed the 2007 case due to the difficulties in retrieving key evidence.

On April 29, 2011, the jury found Yu guilty of two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, and three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Wiseman, who decided the four charges, found him guilty of two counts of possession of a controlled substance, one count of obstruction of justice, and one count of resisting arrest.

During yesterday’s sentencing, Wiseman said the maximum total sentence is 117 years if the court were to issue maximum and consecutive sentences.

If the mandatory sentence were to run consecutively, it would be a total of 75 years, the judge pointed out.

Wiseman said the Legislature finds the use of dangerous, highly addictive narcotic substances has become an epidemic in the CNMI.

“In the Legislature’s opinion, it has become necessary to impose severe penalties on those who, without conscience, would so prey on our society as to threaten its very survival,” the judge said.

Assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu had recommended 50 years imprisonment, while Yu’s lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, pushed for two years with credit for time served.

After the hearing, Woodruff told the media that Yu’s case will be appealed as there are a number of issues from the trial that will make appeal well founded. “The evidence for the trafficking charges is particularly weak against Mr. Yu. He did not actually make any of the sale. He did not personally,” he said.

The conspiracy count, Woodruff said, was much stronger because Yu was assisting co-defendant Zhang Ling.

Mocanu on the other hand said he feels that justice was served.

“I believe that really methamphetamine is an epidemic. We see a lot of meth cases,” said Mocanu. “In this case, I believe that the defendant was a total serious risk to the community. He led police in a high speed chase, throwing methamphetamine out of the window, with complete disregard to anyone’s safety that was on the road that day.”

According to the prosecution, Yu sold a total of 2.5 grams of “ice” to a “cooperating defendant” on Aug. 3 and 4, 2010.

Yu managed to escape during a car chase with CNMI Drug Task Force members and detectives along Middle Road in Gualo Rai near Subway to Chalan Kiya on Aug. 4.

When Yu’s Toyota Land Cruiser crashed into a septic tank outside a house in Chalan Kiya, he jumped out and fled into the jungle.

Yu’s girlfriend, Zhang Ling, and the “cooperating defendant” were in the vehicle and were arrested.

In the subsequent search at Yu’s residence, task force agents reportedly seized over 540 grams or half a kilo of “ice.” After testing, the substance turned out to be sugar.

On Aug. 25, 2010, Yu was arrested after a man spotted him in Marpi. He appeared to be disoriented and dehydrated.

Fire chiefs’ association formed for Pacific region

Officers and members of the newly formed Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs pose for a group photo after its first meeting on July 15 in Guam. Sitting from left to right are Naval Base Guam Fire Chief Robert Green, Guam Fire Department Acting Fire Chief Raymond Perez, and Andersen AFB Fire Chief John Thompson. Standing from left to right are Guam Fire Department Fire Captain Joe Terlaje, Naval Base Guam Deputy Fire Chief Leecardo Taimanglo, Naval Base Guam Assistant Fire Chief Steve Hagen, Andersen AFB Station Chief Marvin Tuncap, Andersen AFB Assistant Fire Chief Paul Phillips, Guam Fire Department Battalion Chief John Wusstig, and Andersen AFB Assistant Fire Chief Stanley Torres.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

» Stanley Torres Jr. elected first president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fire chiefs in the Pacific region have formed an organization that aims to foster and maintain professional fellowship and camaraderie among the fire services between all islands within Micronesia.

The Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs was initially formed on June 21 this year. Its officers and board members were elected during the group’s first meeting on July 15 in Guam.

Stanley C. Torres, assistant fire chief for training at Andersen Air Force Base, was named president of the association board. Leecardo Taimanglo, deputy fire chief for Naval Base Guam, was elected vice president.

In an interview with Torres yesterday, he said forming the association has been in the works for about four years as soon as he left the Commonwealth Ports Authority where he was its former fire chief.

“Besides strengthening the relationship of all fire services in Guam and Micronesia, we want to help each other out in areas that we can’t do from our current organizations. Plans have started to raise funds to help out our firefighters and the community. We are also planning to work on getting federal grants to assist in future training programs, such as conferences and workshops for our region,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Additionally, the group’s training committee, which Torres also chairs, will be working with the Guam Community College and Saipan’s Pacific Region ARFF Training Center to get more advanced and specialized training for firefighters within the region.

“As a group, we can do it as a team and best of all the team consists of all the fire chiefs. Imagine this, getting together the chiefs and firefighters into a room for a meeting or conference, you bring in hundreds of years of experiences of all types of fire and emergency incidents or disasters that is shared amongst each other, thus taking the experience to our own departments and making sure our firefighters and most of all the community is safe,” Torres said.

Membership is open to all firefighter ranks and individuals and companies having an interest in the association.

According to Torres, the group’s mission is to cultivate a closer relationship between fire service organizations and the island community; promote safety through research, study, and education; serve as the recognized organization for exchange of ideas and information; and to research, plan, facilitate and execute joint training in furtherance of continuing education among the fire service organizations.

The association, he said, also plans to tie in with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which is the leader of all Fire Chiefs Associations in the United States.

For its first major undertaking, the newly formed group is planning to co-sponsor the annual Firefighter Muster Competition for Guam’s fire departments in October this year.

Other association officers are Station Chief for Andersen Air Force Base Guam Marvin Tuncap as treasurer; Assistant Fire Chief for Safety at Andersen Air Force Base Paul Phillips for secretary; and Battalion Chief at Guam Fire Department John Wusstig; Fire Chief at Andersen Air Force Base John Thompson; and Assistant Fire Chief for Operations at Naval Base Guam Steve Hagen as board members.

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Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent hike

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The cost of fuel is up again, thanks to a 10-cent hike the past two days from the two giant oil companies that operate gas stations on Saipan.

A day after Mobil raised the price of gas by 10 cents, Shell mirrored the increase at 2pm yesterday.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Shell and Mobil service stations on Saipan is now $4.759 a gallon, which is not far from the CNMI's current minimum wage of $5.05 an hour. Super unleaded gasoline now costs $5.09 a gallon, while diesel is now $5.219 a gallon.

Attendants of both gasoline vendors said that motorists were surprised, and a few were irritated, after finding out that gas prices went up Tuesday and Wednesday.

One attendant said that when they were changing the price on their signage, some passing motorists were honking their horns, thinking that it was for a price decrease.

One such motorist was Jerry Soriano, deliveryman for Marianas Water and Ice. He said he was expecting the price of gas to decrease, only to find out yesterday afternoon that the prices went up 10 cents a gallon.

He said he feels bad for his employer as their gas expense will have to go up. Soriano said they couldn't pass on the increase to their consumers because of stiff price competition in the water delivery business.

Soriano said he normally spends $15 a day for gas, but with the 10-cent increase he is expecting that to go up to $17.

A 50-year-old father of four from As Matuis, meanwhile, is dismayed with the oil companies' quick trigger when it comes to price increases.

"They're very fast to put up the price but very slow in marking it down. They waited for three weeks to drop the price when the worldwide prices were down but not even a month after the decrease, here they go again hiking the price," he said.

Saipan City Taxi owner Rabby Syed, for his part, called on the government to help regulate oil companies in the CNMI. He said Mobil and Shell should answer to the government and the public why the price of fuel is rising.

Syed, who operates a fleet of 20 taxicabs, said his company spends as much as $10,000 a month on fuel cost alone, even before the latest gas price increase.

While Saipan gas prices are still among the highest in the United States, it is still far less than what an average motorist on Rota and Tinian pay for fuel as added shipping cost and the relatively small population on the two islands combine to boost prices.

The price of crude oil worldwide now hovers near $98 a barrel following a drop in U.S. crude supply.

Retail pump prices are affected by a combination of factors, which include internationally traded wholesale prices, operating and capital cost, distribution costs, taxes and duties, currency exchange rates, and market competition.

Man gets 13-day prison term for beating up stepmom, 3 relatives

A man accused of punching his stepmother and beating up his two nieces and a nephew was sentenced Monday to 13 days in prison.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced William C. Teregeyo to a year in jail, all suspended except for 13 days, for one count of assault and battery.

The 22-year-old Teregeyo was given credit for the 13 days he had already served in jail. This means he will no longer serve further jail time.

Teregeyo will be placed on a year of probation and required to pay a $100 probation fee and $25 court fee. He was ordered to undergo counseling evaluation at the Community Guidance Center.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Teregeyo with four counts of assault and battery and four counts of disturbing the peace.

Teregeyo pleaded guilty to a count of assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer had responded to a residence in Chinatown after receiving a call about a domestic violence on July 6 at 9:34pm.

When the officer arrived, an out-of-control Teregeyo was seen being calmed down by another man.

Police learned that the drunken Teregeyo got mad after one of his nieces refused to do something for him. He smacked her in the face. When the other niece tried to call the police, he punched her twice in the head.

When the stepmother confronted Teregeyo, he kicked her and punched her twice in the head, causing her to faint. He then allegedly punched his nephew in the face and kicked a laptop. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bill eyed to provide coverage for retirees without insurance

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NMI Retirement Fund board came in full force yesterday at the Senate, which is planning to introduce a new bill to help retirees without health coverage to avail one under the Fund's insurer Aetna Global.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the proposed bill hopes to do two things: first, to try to keep government employees enrolled so they will have lower premiums; and second, to allow for retires without insurance to be covered under the Fund.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar said the bill would benefit retirees without coverage and active members alike.

"There's a government plan and the government plan involves active members and retirees. But there are private insurance companies out there that provide coverage to active government employees also but when they get old and getting ready to retire they drop them," said Igisomar who said although he has no proof this happens, he nonetheless has heard a lot of stories about it that has compelled him to support the proposed bill.

Manglona said the proposed measure will try to entice active members to stay with the government insurance program by letting them know that they still can avail of the same insurance policy when they retire.

"So in other words, if you're enrolled with the Fund and you retire you can [still] enroll with them. It is to encourage active members to stay in the policy, don't ever quit even though you retire, don't quit because you cannot come back in," he said.

For retirees out of coverage, Manglona said the proposed bill gives them an opportunity to come into the system "but you have to pay 100 percent instead of 50 percent. Because now they cannot go to private insurers even if they want to because they're old. Nobody wants to cover a sick person, right?"

The Senate president, however, doesn't want to assign blame for this alleged practice of private insurance companies. "What the private insurers are saying is that we want to cover young people so we could offer these people cheap premium. But if you force us to cover everyone, then we would have to increase our premiums."

Manglona said if the Legislature doesn't deal with the issue of uninsured retirees now, the problem will boomerang back to the government sometime in the future.

"It will be a government burden down the road if we don't work on having retirees get enrolled in government insurance," he said, adding that he expects Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) to introduce the bill as soon as next week.

For Igisomar, the proposed measure is an issue of providing insurance to senior citizens that were never covered in the past.

"Private insurance company premiums are very low so how come these retirees are knocking on the Fund's door and saying they need insurance when it's as much as $300. So, something is going on. I don't know but something is happening that people are covered but when they hit a certain age they get dropped. So they're out of coverage. [So this becomes a question of] how can we help retirees that have no insurance but would like to have one," he said.

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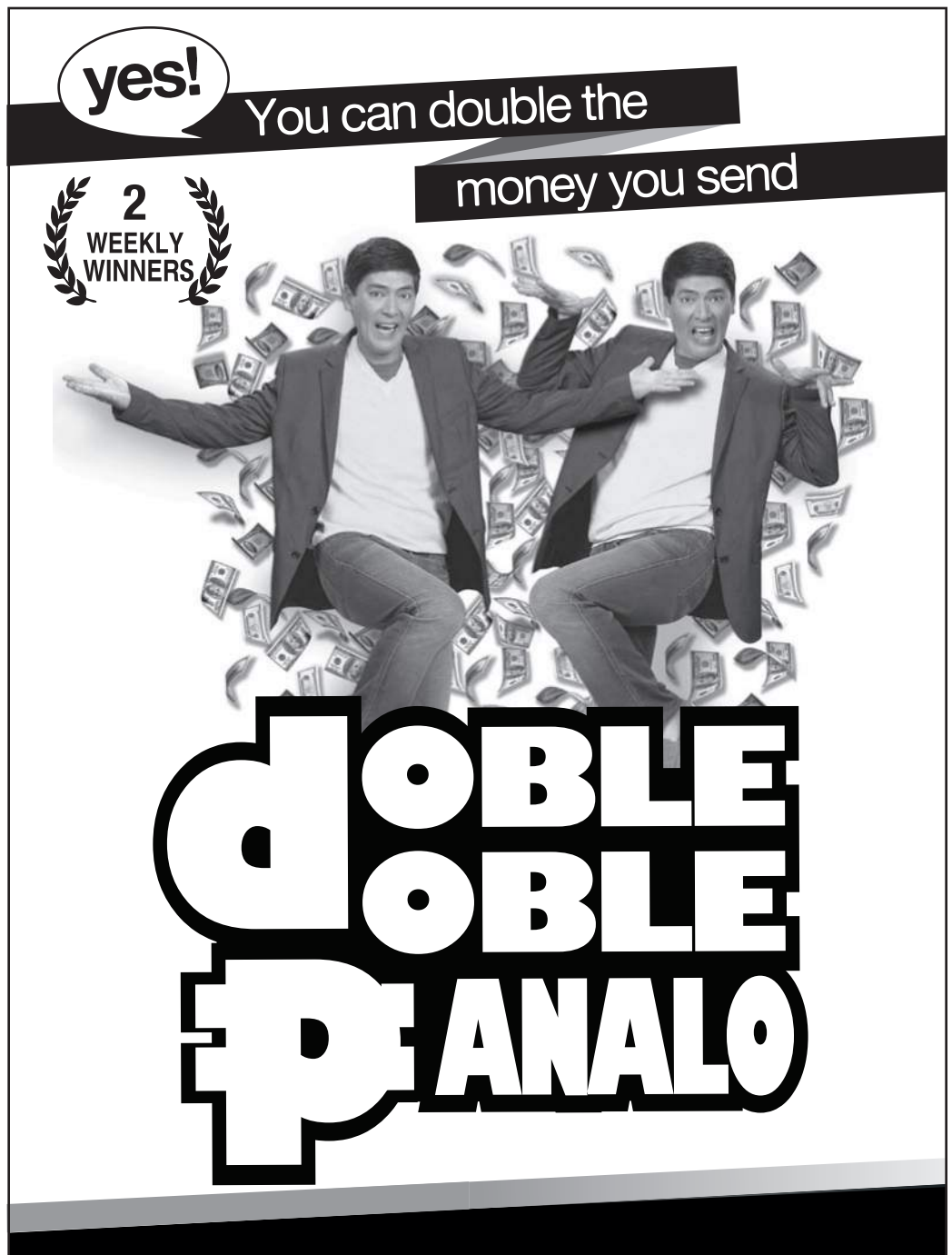
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House Way and Means fast-tracking 2012 budget report

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

House Ways and Means chair Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said his committee is nearly finished working on the $102-million budget being proposed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for fiscal year 2012.

Basa said the House Ways and Means Committee is settled "pretty much with what the administration has submitted. We're not touching anything under the Executive Branch. We're not touching anything under the Judicial Branch."

He said the meeting they held yesterday was primarily held only to look at the Legislature's budget vis-à-vis how much is going to each member and how much is going to the leadership account. He expects the Senate to do its own thing in the 2012 appropriations bill.

"We're pretty much in agreement fortunately and everyone of us wants this budget to go as fast as possible. We're looking at wrapping it up by Monday and I was talking to the House Speaker [Eli C. Cabrera] if he can call a session on Friday and introduce it on the floor," said Basa.

As expected, dwindling government revenues will call for non-critical government employees to again endure 16-hour cuts and unpaid holidays in the fiscal year 2012 budget.

Basa also doesn't expect the same drawn-out process that led to a government shutdown during budget debates in 2010.

"I hope there will be no repeat of the [budget wars] last year. We have all the data from the administration, finance, and OMB and data don't lie. We just don't have the money. There's nothing really to dispute or argue. We just have continue tightening our belts and just again learn to live within our means and hopefully things will turn around next year," he said.

The total identified budgetary resources is $120,679,000, based on Fitial's budget submission.

Of this amount, $102 million is the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation for the CNMI government's activities in 2012. The rest will go toward other obligations such as bond payments and other earmarks.

In an interview last week, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the government will set aside $10 million to pay for government employee contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund for fiscal year 2012.

He said the line-item budget was made to follow the Fund's new directive that increased employee contribution from 37.9 percent to 60 percent.

The CNMI government partially shut down last year when the House and Senate failed to pass a budget before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1. Lawmakers have since said they will work harder to pass a timely budget and avoid another partial shutdown in October 2011.

Over a thousand enroll in PSS summer enrichment programs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribumne.com
REPORTER

This year's summer enrichment programs of the Public School System registered over a thousand participants across all schools and levels, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

In a visit to Hopwood Junior High School yesterday, teacher Jenn Castro was seen attending to 31 eighth graders in a transition course for language arts. Throughout the six-week program that will end Aug. 5, participants in her class are expected to be fully prepared for the next grade level. The transition course or preparatory class is open to all incoming high school students from all public schools and runs from 8am through 2pm each day.

For Judy Rose Ngirbabul, an eight grader from Hopwood, attending the preparatory class for language arts will help her improve in that particular subject. She admitted finding language arts to be among her weaknesses among all subjects.

"I really wanted to improve in this area so I decided to take it this summer. High school is a new challenge for me so I need to make sure I am ready and prepared for it," she told *Saipan Tribune*. Ngirbabul will enroll at Marianas High School next school year.

Another eight grader from Hopwood, Judy Ann Rabauliman, is taking the class to recover credits for the subject. "I don't want to repeat it next year, so I grabbed this opportunity to recover the lost credit," she said, adding that once she completes and pass the summer class, she could continue her studies at Saipan Southern High School.

Teacher Jacklyn Echon was also seen yesterday attending to about 70 seventh graders in a class at the school's cafeteria. She explained that her summer sessions primarily involve math and language arts, but she also incorporates social studies and science subjects. Participants in her classes include seventh graders who failed on one or more subjects and lack the needed credits to go to the next grade level.

Echon was being assisted by three other teachers and nine trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency.

Also seen attending to 26 eighth graders yesterday was teacher Jackie Dela Cruz, who is handling the transitional class for Algebra.

At Kagman Elementary School, principal Ignacia Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that over 60 students participated in their summer programs. She considered the sessions offered as advanced lessons for language arts and math. Demapan said a significant number of her students also participated in the summer science camp and the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program.

Besides Hopwood and Kagman Elementary, other summer programs are ongoing in other campuses such as Oleai Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, Chacha Oceanview Junior High, and Saipan Southern High School.

MOST

From Page 1

valid until the end of the transition period in 2014.

DHS Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Kelly Ryan said in a House subcommittee hearing last Friday in Washington, D.C. that she hopes the rules will come out sometime in mid-September 2011.

Sablan also clarified that even though he introduced a bill seeking to give status to alien worker parents of U.S. citizen children, he would still want U.S. citizens to be hired for jobs in the CNMI.

"Federal and Commonwealth laws provide that U.S. citizens be hired for jobs in the Northern Mariana Islands and that foreign workers only be hired and only be hired for jobs where there are no U.S. citizens available. That is the law and that is a good law and I support that. I support having U.S. citizens working at jobs in the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

The delegate, however, said there is general agreement among CNMI and federal officials that some workers are needed in the Commonwealth for some time and it may even be necessary to get the transition period extended past 2014.

"Public Law 110-229's intention is to reduce the need for foreign workers during the transition period and for U.S. citizens to fill those jobs until there is no longer any need for foreign workers. Federal law requires that foreigners in the U.S. who have no visa must return to their home country," he said.

Sablan's H.R. 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses or children, "as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II)."

Lack of alien worker witness

Human rights activist Wendy Doromal said that, although she admired sophomore college student Hazel Doctor's testimony, she still noticed something amiss in the hearing because of the lack of alien workers invited.

"Hazel was the most compelling witness at the hearing. She spoke passionately about the plight of the U.S. citizen and their nonresident parents. She talked about how her parents contributed to the CNMI and how she and her younger sister may be faced with the decision of staying in their country or leaving the CNMI to stay with their family in a foreign land.

"What she did not talk about was the thousands of other equally deserving nonresident workers and their families who have contributed to the CNMI, have grown deep roots and friendships, but have been callously excluded from the bill. But that was not her role at the hearing. Hazel did say that it 'was immoral to separate families.' I agree with her, and would add that it is immoral to separate all families, whether they have a U.S. citizen as a family member or not," said Doromal in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the lack of alien worker witnesses in the hearing was because of time constraints and the necessity of having a witness directly affected by H.R. 1466 testify.

"Of course, anyone is free to submit written testimony—as all of the witnesses who spoke Thursday did. And all testimony—written and oral—is thoroughly reviewed and considered. I encourage as many people as they want to submit testimony," he said.

HR 1466 has merit

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos expressed cautious support for Sablan's bill when interviewed Monday following Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) oath-taking at the House chamber.

"Like many of the other folks here, we need to take a look at what the impact will be based on that bill. But generally, taking care of folks who have invested most of their lifetime here is certainly has a lot of merit and we need to take a look at that as well."

If anything, Inos said, the public hearing on Friday showed that there is some interest in the committee level to move H.R. 1466 forward.

"The bill has a lot of miles to travel. It still has to be approved and adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives and it will have to be sent up to the U.S. Senate. So it still has a long ways to go. I just hope something fair would come out of this effort. Whether it's a form of a bill like H.R. 1466 or a modified version as alluded to by the governor. One way or the other we should address this situation. At this point it's too early to tell. But the fact that it's been reported out of committee is a sign that there appears to be some support by certain members," he said.

STAMP

From Page 1

The public is invited to attend. Collectors will be able to purchase the *Flags of Our Nation* stamps and have them hand cancelled for free with a special commemorative First Day of Sale postmark by postal personnel from 10:30am to 11:30am at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The ceremony will be hosted by USPS Honolulu district manager Daryl Ishizaki and feature remarks by Northern Mariana Islands Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. The stamp will then be officially dedicated by USPS Director of Asia-Pacific Relations Leo Tudela.

The CNMI stamp is part of the fifth set of the USPS *Flags of Our Nation* stamp series. This fifth set of *Flags of Our Nation* features the flags of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the states of Ohio through Tennessee. These stamps are arranged alphabetically in strips of 10 and sold in coils of 50. This is the first *Flags of Our Nation* set to be issued as Forever® stamps. Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate.

Flags of our Nation is a multi-stamp series featuring the *Stars and Stripes*, the 50 state flags, five territorial flags, and the District of Columbia flag. The first set of ten stamps in the series was issued in 2008. In addition to the flag art, each stamp design includes artwork that provides a "snapshot view" of the state or other area represented by a particular flag.

The CNMI stamp features the flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands against a background of sandy beaches and coconut palms.

This fifth set of *Flags of Our Nation* stamps will be available for purchase in post offices throughout Saipan and across the U.S. on Aug. 11. ***(USPS)***

BOLLARDS

From Page 1

ernor Eloy Inos has already approved emergency repairs at the harbor, with the concurrence of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, who was on island last week.

Saipan Tribune learned that shipments of Mobil Oil's fuel tanker are already being affected by the port's condition and is presently doing minimal shipment, based on the capability of the existing bollards.

"This is a very important and critical project, which is the reason why an emergency repair was approved by the governor and was concurred by Secretary Babauta. Four of our major bollards will collapse anytime soon and once it happens, we can no longer accommodate the fuel tanker," said Mendiola.

Mendiola, a former chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, estimated the total cost for the emergency project at about $500,000, including design, assessment, installation of four new bollards, and removal of the harbor fender. He described the existing fender as dilapidated.

He said the money will be sourced from the $3.2 million CIP funds reprogrammed by the delegation from its solid waste and waste water projects. The delegation decided to reprogram the entire $3.2 million after it realized that the total cost for the solid waste and wastewater project will reach more than $27 million. That number was arrived at in 2009 and expected to be higher now.

Mendiola said the harbor needs at least three "strong" bollards to hold bigger vessels. He said the existing bollards are still being used for small shipments to the island. He said he will ask the Tinian delegation to use the remaining balance of the reprogrammed funds for other important projects at the Tinian airport and seaport.

The invitation to bid for the emergency repair of Tinian harbor will be closed on Aug. 19. Mendiola hopes the new bollards may be operational before the end of the year.

He clarified that the emergency repairs for the Tinian harbor is different from the longstanding need to rehabilitate the harbor's breakwater.

Aging Office's homebound clients almost double this year

» Active clients of *man'amko* center slightly decreasing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While the number of elderly clients at the Man'amko Center is slowly decreasing, the number of its homebound clients is going the other way, almost doubling this year, according to Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao yesterday.

From a little over a hundred homebound clients per year, Faisao said the number is now at 220, with 150 on Saipan, 26 on Tinian, and 44 on Rota.

The number of congregates, on the other hand, is slowly going down, according to Aging Office program coordinator Walter Manglona yesterday, mainly because of two factors: death and the relocation of some clients.

From October 2010 to date, the Aging Office recorded 68 congregate clients, a slight decrease from the 80 active clients noted in the previous fiscal year, Manglona said.

For this current year alone, he said the center has lost some 15 to 20 members, many of whom have relocated with their families while others have decided to stop visiting the center.

The Office on Aging, which operates under the DCCA, has two types of clients: congregates or active members who visit the Garapan facility everyday and participate in its activities, and homebound members who receive free meals and visits from caregivers. Both are provided free services by the Aging Center using both local and federal funds.

In order to be eligible to avail of services at the center, a citizen must be 60 years old and above and is able to participate in the program and activities. The same age bracket is used as the eligibility criteria for homebound clients.

Manglona said that many in the community are still confused about the Aging Center, mixing it up with the idea of a nursing home. He clarified that all of the center's active clients are able to take care of themselves. Also, unlike nursing homes, the Aging Center employs no nursing assistants and aides to perform tasks for its clients.

Manglona said it is the goal of the center to provide assistance to the elderly by organizing activities and events that would enhance their physical skills. He said several activities are lined up for the less active to the most active client.

Dancing classes, softball, and ground golf are among those initiated for the most active senior citizens while computer classes, bingo, and billiard are among the programs organized for the "less active" ones.

Funded by the federal government, the Aging Center also provides free meals and transportation for its active clients.

According to Faisao, the Aging Office was given local funding of $140,000 this fiscal year, a big bulk of which is used for the salary of personnel. From fiscal years 2008 through 2011, the office was allocated $876,000 in federal funds for this five-year cycle.

Ex-convict's bid to transfer his case to Guam is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court denied yesterday a request to transfer to Guam the case of an ex-convict who is facing charges in the district court for the NMI for allegedly impregnating a female minor on Rota.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes ruled that the fact that Melvin David Diaz is from Guam does not weigh in favor of transferring the trial.

Hayes said that "criminal defendants have no constitutional right to have a trial in their home districts, nor does the location of the defendant's home have 'independent significance in determining whether transfer to that district would be in the interest of justice.'"

The U.S. government had charged the 49-year-old Diaz with three counts of enticement of a minor and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Diaz, through his lawyer, had argued that transfer is appropriate because he is from Guam, he is more likely to find a suitable third-party custodian in Guam, he could have the moral support of his family, and that some witnesses and records in the case will come from Rota, which is physically closer to Guam than it is to Saipan.

Diaz also argued that the District of Guam has an Office of the Federal Public Defender, whose lawyers are more experienced with criminal matters than is his present lawyer, and that transfer would give him the benefit of having his case permanently assigned to a full-time sitting judge.

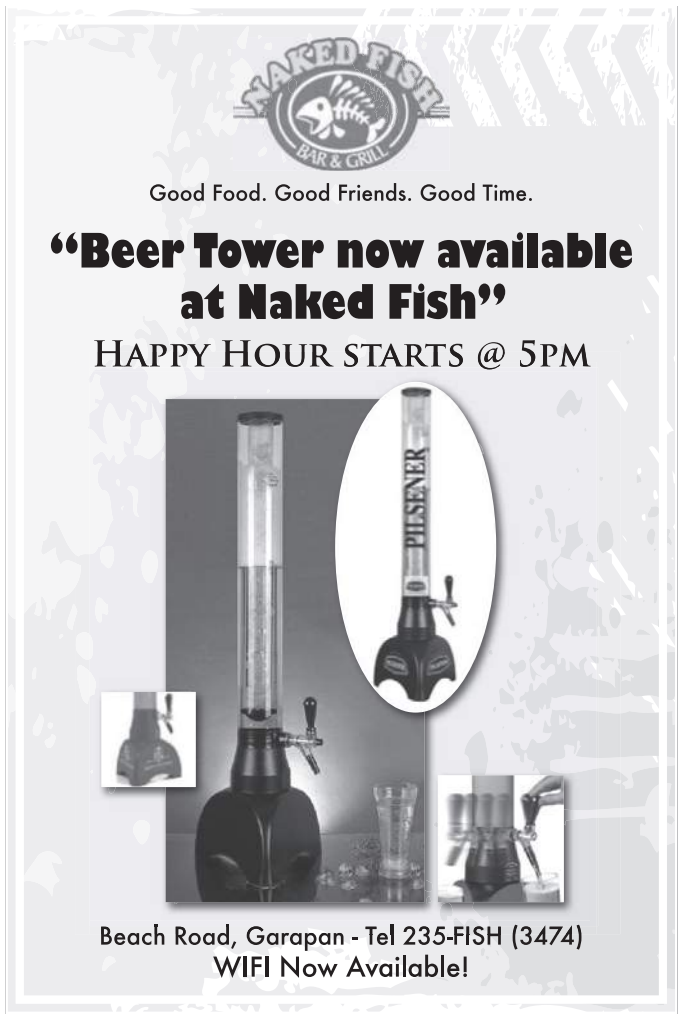
In opposing the motion, the U.S. Attorney's Office argued that transfer is inappropriate because Diaz will not be able to get a third-party custodian unless he can present new information pertaining to his "dangerousness" or risk of flight.

The U.S. government added that the alleged crimes affected the community of Rota and that the court should defer to the government's exercise of prosecutorial discretion in deciding to bring the case in this district rather than in the District of Guam.

Hayes said factors such as location of witnesses, events, documents and records, counsel, and others do not weigh in favor of transfer.

Hayes said Diaz has not demonstrated that he has been or will be prejudiced if his case will be assigned to a visiting judge.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with a minor.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De Ramos is Saipan's Next Top Chef

Melquiades De Ramos from Fiesta Resort & Spa was crowned Saipan's Next Top Chef at the fundraiser event for Empty Vessel Ministry on July 16, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club.

De Ramos beat out five other contestants to win the grand prize of $200, a stainless steel chef's pan from Taro Sue Store, and a $200 Delta Air Lines travel voucher.

Jin Woo Lee of Saipan World Resort won second place, bringing home $175, a cell phone from Docomo Pacific, and a coffee and tea set from Kevin's Department Store.

Rommel Villaviza of Saipan World Resort won third place, winning $150, a tool set from Taro Sue Store, and buffet lunch gift certificate from Pacific Islands Club.

The other contestants were Chuzi Rios Pacific Islands Club and Benjamin Babauta of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Culinary students from Kagman High School and Rota High School helped the contestants peel and cut vegetables and meat. Javil Manglona of Rota High school assisted De Ramos, Vincent Maratita of Rota High School assisted Lee, while Vannah Hocog of Rota High School assisted Villaviza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Next Top Chef winner Melquiades De Ramos of Fiesta Resort & Spa, center, is flanked by Jin Woo Lee of Saipan World Resort, right, and Rommel Villaviza of Saipan World Resort.

Certified Angus Beef donated by Triple J Five Star Wholesale was the main ingredient for the competition.

The competition judges were Dr. Florence Schenker of the Commonwealth Health Center, Maria Salas of the Public School System and Brian O'Laughlin of the CNMI Law Commission, while the tabulators were Nhing Reyes from Ernst Young and Damiana Arkoh, a volunteer for EVM.

Among the guests present during the contest were PIC general manager Hiro Sugie, Public Health Secretary Joe Kevin Villagomez, AA Enterprise president Aaron Choi, Pastor Dan Basaldua, United Movement president Rabby Syed, Kevin's Department Store owner Wayne Kevin, and Ranger Susan Fishman of the American Memorial Park.

Prizes donated by sponsors were also raffled off, including cell phones, lunch buffets, a romantic dinner for two, special lunches, hotel packages, body massage and facial spa, cookware, fancy umbrella, McDonald's certificates and many more.

The program included intermission numbers featuring Dr. Esther Kanayjorn and her dance partner, Allen Cuyugan of Body Movers.

Empty Vessel Ministry extends a special appreciation to organizers Vicky Benavente, executive assistant of Pacific islands Club, and attorney Shelli Neal for helping organize the event.

Empty Vessel Ministry plans to hold "Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition" next year. Funds raised will be used to care for children by providing school supplies and other basic needs, not just in the CNMI but also in Kenya, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. ***(Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation)***

USCG, NMI agencies hold table top search and rescue exercise

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Homeland Security, and several CNMI agencies had a discussion-based search and rescue training yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room.

Thirty emergency responders participated in the one-day training, called Search and Rescue Table Top Exercise. The U.S. Coast Guard sponsored the training.

CNMI participants were from the Department of Public Safety's Fire Division and Boating Safety Unit, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Emergency Management Office.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controller Leif Wigman-Nilsson said this type of training is extremely important in order to have a better coordination among different agencies.

If everybody is doing something different during a search and rescue operation, then all of them are just wasting their efforts, he said.

"When we coordinate and we all understand how each other work, then we will be able to have a more effective and efficient search and rescue," he pointed out.

Wigman-Nilsson said they have been meeting in the past few months on different topics and yesterday's exercise brought all that information together so they can do hands-on training.

"Right now everybody is plotting on a navigational chart. We will be plotting search patterns from the navigational chart," he said.

After that, training participants would do search and rescue exercise where they would talk through a case or through a situation that involves each department's role in the search and rescue. He said they're going to have a basic scenario: a boater who hasn't come home when he is supposed to.

"Everybody talks about the steps that they would take when the call comes in," he said. "Who are you going to call, what are you going to deploy, are you going to send this boat out, are you going to send helicopter out? We want to see how it works, see how everybody responds to the situation that is put in front of them."

NMC offices closed every other Friday

As announced earlier, the Northern Marianas College will be implementing a work hour reduction for its employees. As such, NMC offices on the Saipan, Rota, and Tinian campuses will be open during normal business hours but closed on the following Fridays: July 22, Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, and Sept. 30, 2011.

Offices that will remain open on these dates include Counseling Programs and Services, the Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service, and the Community Development Institute. Adult Basic Education classes will continue as planned on these dates as well.

Class registration for the fall 2011 semester will proceed as planned from Monday, Aug. 15, 2011 through Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011. Visit the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu for more information. ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-111

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE II ENVIROMENTAL SITE ASSESSMET FOR SOIL & GROUNDWATER OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED BROWNFIELD SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME ON AUGUST 02, 2011** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM, (RM 205).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PRJECT MA BY FAXE DTO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-093

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"MARIANA ISLANDS BLEACHING RESPONSE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY, GUALO RAI CENTER, SUTE 101 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., EXCEPT OF CNMI LEGAL HOLIDAYS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Special*** meeting **Friday, July 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS
A. PSS Lease - Counter Offer

IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. External Auditor - Exit Interview
B. AHO Contract Extension
C. Resolution for Money Managers

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Other Related Matters
B. Next Meeting
C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, July 22, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (June 3, 2011)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Adoption of Resolution for Passenger Facility Charges
2. Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Change Order No. 4
3. Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation CM Amendment No. 2
4. Cancellation of RFP for Saipan International Airport Restroom Improvement/Water Pump Upgrade
5. Department of Homeland Security-FEMA Grant

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/S/ MARGARITA T. PRATER
Acting Chair, Board of Directors
July 20, 2011

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, August 4th , 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of May 5, 2011 minutes
5. Adoption of July 7, 2011 minutes
6. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings
1. House Local Bill 17-26 – Section 2. A review of each rezoning proposal in Section 2 of the bill and staff's recommendation to the Board.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business
1. None

E. New Business
1. Status on text amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Search for missing Chuuk skiff begins

» Passengers include 6 kids, 9 adults

GUAM—The Coast Guard is searching for a missing 28-foot fiberglass skiff reported to have 15 passengers aboard in the vicinity between Chuuk State and Rou Island Wednesday.

The skiff, carrying six children and nine adults, was last seen Monday leaving the northern pass of Chuuk lagoon on a voyage to Ruo Island, about 69 miles northeast. The Chuuk State Department of Transportation reported the vessel as overdue to Coast Guard Sector Guam watchstanders around 10:14am Tuesday.

Sector Guam personnel are working closely with Chuuk State and Federated States of Micronesia national government officials in coordinating a joint search plan that includes assets from both governments.

The Coast Guard cutter *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Apra Harbor joined the search, Wednesday.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii and a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion long-range search aircraft from Okinawa, Japan are currently searching an area covering more than 4,600 square miles and are carrying life-saving equipment aboard that can be airdropped to the vessel, as of 6am Wednesday.

Sector Guam command center personnel contacted the only vessel in the immediate search area, the motor vessel *Islander*, Tuesday. The vessel crew agreed to assist Sector Guam as the initial search asset, covering an area of approximately 260 square miles by following the skiff's route to Ruo Island.

"This type of coordination with commercial vessel traffic makes immediate searches possible in a search and rescue area of responsibility that mirrors the size of the continental United States," said Lt. Gregg Maye, chief of Sector Guam command center.

Mariners are reminded to maintain basic safety equipment aboard their vessels and make reports of marine emergencies to emergency responders by contacting Sector Guam command center on VHF Channel 16, or by calling 671-564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

SHRM NMI Chapter receives distinguished award

The Society for Human Resource Management has awarded the CNMI Chapter the EXCEL Platinum Award for 2010.

"I would like to thank the 2010 SHRM board members for all their hard work in accomplishing this superior award level! This is the highest award level awarded by SHRM," said Eric L. Plinske, 2010 Chapter president.

The CNMI Chapter will receive a Certificate of Recognition, a specialized banner to display at its meetings and events, and recognition in SHRM's publications and at its conferences.

"This recognition is a distinct indication of the chapter's successful partnership with SHRM to serve the networking and professional development needs of human resource professionals and to the advancement of the human resources profession," said Pamela J. Green, SPHR, chief U.S. Membership Officer for SHRM.

The SHRM Affiliate Program for Excellence (has been designed to ensure a strong connection between SHRM and its affiliated chapters from a business perspective. This new program raises the bar of excellence for affiliates and introduces the EXCEL Awards—a tiered recognition and awards system.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. It has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The CNMI Chapter is an affiliated 100 percent chapter. ***(SHRM)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys to inspect compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $28,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Bing.Taitano@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 4:30pm.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT CORP.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179
Plaintiff,	)	**SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
vs.	)	
ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNIEDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X,	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17th, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants in and to the property described as:

Lot No. 001 T 33, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00, the original of which was registered 23 JUL 70 as Document No. 100-A at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, August 12th , 2011, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., & Botones Ave., Garapan, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**
   a. ***Reserve.*** The auction sale will be held with a reserve. The reserve price on the property offered for sale is **$12,000.**
   b. ***Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.*** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Amended Notice before sale before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.
   c. ***Bids.*** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered or mailed to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus Street, Botones Avenue, Garapan, P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
   d. ***Disputes.*** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Second Amended Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**
   a. ***Deposit.*** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the auction is closed. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within **three (3)** days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

8. **Certificate of Sale:** Once the sale is complete and the bid has been paid in full, a Report of Sale will be filed with the CNMI Superior Court. Once the court approves the Report of Sale, the person conducting the sale will be authorized to deliver a Certificate of Sale to the buyer of the real property in accordance with 2 CMC § 4537(f).

Dated this 17th day of June 2011.

/s/ By: Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. no. 323-2115

NHK TV to feature Tinian's WWII history

Japan's largest broadcast company, NHK, recently traveled to the small island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands for a story about the deployment of two atomic bombs from the island during World War II.

The NHK special will be aired in early August and will feature a behind-the-scenes look at the information war that went on between the U.S. Army Airforces' 509th Composite Group stationed on Tinian at the time, and the Japanese Army and Navy. While on Tinian, the three-member shooting crew filmed aerial and land footage of North Field, where the bombs were loaded aboard waiting B-29s, the 509th Composite Group Camp and bomb assembly areas. The crew also interviewed 509th veteran Russel Gaachenbach.

The Marianas Visitors Authority assisted the team with securing film permits and helping clear access to the jungle-covered shooting sites.

Both atomic bombs, ultimately dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the war, were constructed and loaded on Tinian. North Field, the atomic bomb storage pits, invasion beaches, and numerous other World War II sites and artifacts on Tinian are still readily accessible to visitors today. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Japanese broadcast company NHK interviews 509th Composite Group veteran Russel Gaachenbach during their filming in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands earlier this month.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 60th birthday to "Daddy" Benedicto Reyes Lizama who celebrates his birthday in Kapolei, Hawaii . We love you very much! Greetings come from your wife, kids, and grandkids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 50th birthday to our *Kirida* Sophie! You finally made it to our Elite Club. You've reached the milestone we all dreaded, we welcome you with open arms and all the flabs, wrinkles and grey hair that come with it. Remember it is only a number, half a century, that is! We love you, *Amigamu Siha.*

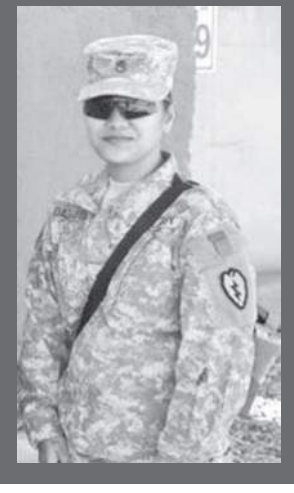
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings going out to Francisca A. Cruz who will be celebrating her birthday today, July 21, 2011. May you have a blessed and enjoyable birthday. Greetings coming from your families and gangsters. In photo is her husband Pete Cruz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to JJ Salas, who is celebrating his 38th birthday today! We love you! Greetings come from Sam, Julia, Janece, and John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Welcome home and congratulations on your promotion Sergeant First Class Maylynn Henrick Babauta! Greetings come from your *familia*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 21, 1999

Deep cost-cutting for Saipan mayor's office

Currently beset with huge budget deficit, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan would be forced to further pare down its operations and move out of its present office in a bid to avoid overspending beyond its proposed appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000, according to officials. These drastic measures would enable them to live with the $2.04 million budget set aside by the Tenorio administration, nearly 92 percent of which have been allotted for personnel costs. But legislators grilled the mayor during the budget hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday, questioning his decision to raise the salary of one employee by almost $10,000 while slashing an average of five percent from the wages of 65 others.

Overhaul of Saipan mayor's office sought

The Saipan Mayor's office needs to redefine its functions and institute reforms to avoid duplication of services provided to the community by the central government, according to House Majority Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo. Mayor Jose C. Sablan expressed frustration over the current set-up, which has diminished the role of his office in the delivery of basic services as well as in handling events and functions on the island. He said he's been trying not to sidestep the governor in performing his duties although at time he feels "out of place" during official functions held on Saipan where the Commonwealth leader is accorded protocol.

July 21, 2000

NMC adds $1.1 million to 2001 budget

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has moved to revise its proposed Fiscal Year 2001 budget request to $9.2 million to include projected expenses for additional personnel and repair of existing school facilities. This, as the college continues to lobby for more general appropriation funds in light of a Legislature appeal to reduce the current tuition rate. Under the present setup, the school's share in the local appropriation only covers the college's personnel expenditure. The college sources funds for other expenditures from its tuition collection. To cover anticipated losses due to the proposed tuition reduction, BOR is appealing for an increase in the yearly appropriation.

NMC nursing students train at CHC

Nursing students from the Northern Marianas College are now conducting on-the-job training at the Commonwealth Health Center to complete an intensive one-semester course of eight credits in preparation to their becoming Certified Nursing Assistants. The course introduces the students to the basic nursing procedures, concepts and basic medical technologies. The experience take them to all the clinical areas CHC including the Emergency Room, physical therapy, radiology, hemodialysis, as well as the wards and other clinics. Completion of the course makes the students qualified to work as nursing assistants at either the government-run hospital or other private clinics throughout the island, although some choose to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing.

July 21, 2003

'Dandan accreditation a concern'

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has expressed serious concerns about Dandan Elementary School, according to the Board of Education. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero said that, while WASC was diplomatic in its letter, it was "very concerned" about the school's compliance with accreditation requirements, particularly in the areas of management and leadership. "WASC tries to be diplomatic and it's being diplomatic but they are very concerned.I'm concerned about Dandan," said the chairman. Dandan, together with Koblerville and San Antonio, recently went through a self-study review.

'NMC not rushing Gateway contract'

About a month after the release of its funding, the Northern Marianas College has yet to reach a final agreement with a private firm for the purchase of a facility for its Pacific Gateway project. NMC Board of Regents chairman Vince Seman said Friday that negotiation on the purchase offer still continues. "It's not signed yet. Nothing is final at this time. We don't want to rush it," he said. The board was set to hold a special meeting Friday on the progress of the project but decided to postpone it for this week.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
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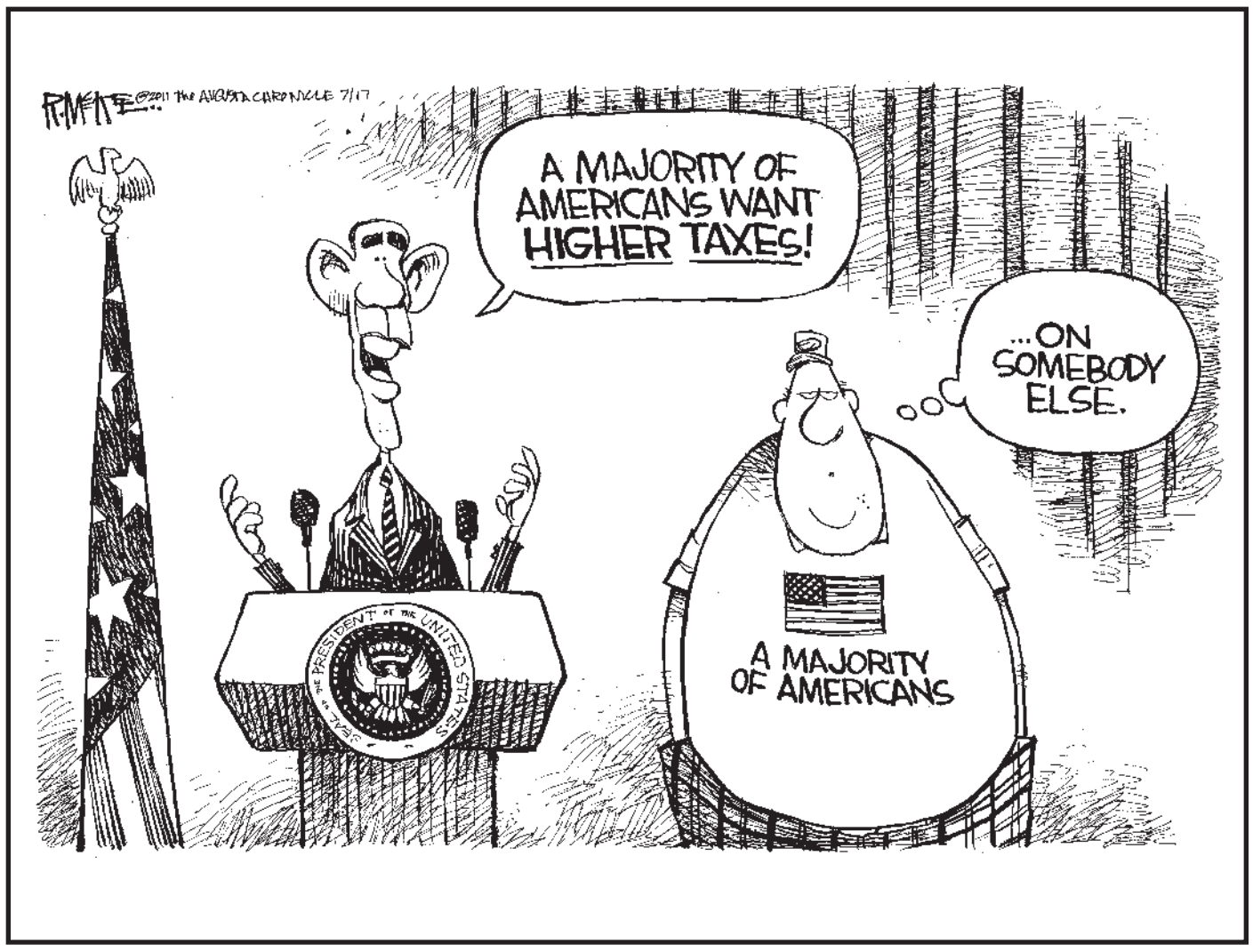


Space program possible because of Americans who risk it all

By J.R. LABBE
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Three men and one woman stood in blue NASA flight suits on July 4, smiling and holding U.S. flags to honor their nation's birthday, as they took a brief break from preparing to be thrust into the heavens four days later with an unwavering confidence in man and machine that most people are hard-pressed to understand.

Most people also are hard-pressed to name any of the astronauts who are aboard the space shuttle Atlantis and the International Space Station as they circle the globe.

Atlantis Commander Chris Ferguson, pilot Doug Hurley and mission specialists Rex Walheim and Sandra Magnus ferried a year's worth of supplies and spare parts to ISS Expedition 28 Commander Andrey Borisenko and Flight Engineers Mike Fossum, Satoshi Furukawa, Ron Garan, Alexander Samokutyaev and Sergei Volkov. When Atlantis makes her return to Earth, scheduled for July 20, she will be loaded with as much trash as possible.

Were it not for the fact that this is the final flight of the U.S. shuttle program, the activities unfolding miles above our heads would garner scant attention.

This is nothing new for aviation pioneers and innovators—they are used to working in anonymity. The nameless, faceless men who risked their lives as Cold War test pilots in the pursuit of science and military might for the United States were no exception. Yet they were exceptional people.

America paid little attention to the activities at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California decades ago, when experimental flights were making possible what would one day be John Glenn's first trip into space. The men toiled in obscurity, their actions known by few outside of their families and the controlled circle of the military.

During the 1950s, the United States didn't want the rest of the world to know what was going on in the deserts of California and New Mexico. As the Cold War simmered in the international spotlight, engineers and scientists worked in secret to develop the next generation of flying machines that could deliver lethal cargo if need be.

The threat of what the United States would do if forced into a position of defense was backed up by real weapons. It wasn't until years after the Cold War thawed that the world discovered that much of the Soviet threat during those years was little more than theatrics and facade.

Away from the scrutiny of America's media, young test pilots daily stepped into massive pieces of machinery, great hunks of steel veined with miles of complicated wiring that intricately coursed through reinforcement joints and instrument panels. These military men (for at that time, all test pilots were male) sat in cockpits and revved up engines that aerospace manufacturers hoped would carry them skyward.

When one of these flights failed—as did the one that in June 1958 claimed the life of my father, Boyd Lee Grubaugh—there were no public memorials, no scholarship funds for the children

See SPACE on Next Page

Ryu, Seo and Nadeshiko

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The sight of the two lovelies "battling" it out for the U.S. Open golf title saw more an image of gentility than competition. Emerging sensation 21-year old Ryu So-yeon was all confidence and steel nerves as she outdrove and outputted seasoned 25-year-old Seo Hee-kyung for the LPGA title at the U.S. Open.

Not too long ago, we witnessed 29-year-old Li Na of China emerge as French Open champ in women's tennis. We took exception to the foreign press' attempt to anglicize her name as Na Li, ethnocentricity rearing its ugly head on ascending Asia figures and thought forms. Li Na's prominence was doubly wonder-filled in her independent quest for the fulfillment of her career, jumped on by the media as a "failure" of the centralized sports support system of China. Duh.

It also revealed an old rot I had unthinkingly fallen into in my Oral English class by asking students to get an English name, as traditionally done by foreign teachers to ease identification of students, and in the process, failing to recognize the students' intrinsic value. My apology was late but well received (my students never had a teacher apologize to them before), and though I never caught up with getting names and faces together, my feeble attempt at learning their Chinese names scored high.

Zhongguo (China), Nippon (Japan), and Hanguk/Chosun (Koreas) of late have prominently risen in the consciousness of the West, China for its rapid economic growth, and Japan for its recent tremor and tsunami disasters, along with the feeble posturing of its politicians particularly in the Diet. The Koreas in their continuing intra-animosities, fanned by the incredible continuing presence of U.S. military command in Hangkuk more than 50 years after the civil war, continue to divide and define geopolitical alignments in the region. Unification of Korea will not happen for as long as the U.S. military-industrial complex lords it over the southern end of the peninsula.

But none of these geopolitical considerations are of any immediate consequence when two Korean ladies out-putt each other in the prestigious golf links of the U.S. Open. Yet, in the larger picture, the ascendant presence of *Hangeul Saram* in the world stage only underscores how globalization has made turns and twists in the makeup of the global century.

We refer to Gogoryo (old Korea), its Confucian underpinnings conservatively kept in the North, and liberally applied in the economic processes of the South. Some will say that I must mean "capitalism's free enterprise" in the south, but that accounts for modernization of metropolitan Korea only. It does not account for the reticence and creativity of the denizens of the land of the morning calm as they flourish from being a stomping ground and exploited peoples for and by the Hans, Manchus, Mongols, Russkyes, French, Japanese, and the UN-world led by Americans.

The Hangeul heard everywhere has become a global rallying cry as the Korean economy allows for students to seek educational exposure elsewhere; the combined business and religious impetus of many has made Korea-towns an Asian addition to the numerous Chinatowns that dot the urban centers of the global landscape, and the sudden evangelical resurgence in America and the Third World.

After the Korean war, with the resuscitation of the Japanese economy and its flowering in the '80s when it tolerated as the inefficient sector domestic production in exchange for economic dominance in other countries, and later, in the global financial markets, Nippon quietly existed on the earnings of its financial investments outside of the country. The last tremor and tsunami disaster showed the nations' ingrained practices of disciplined modesty, order and moderation, particularly as it welcomed and dutifully acknowledged the relief efforts from other countries without being overly enthusiastic in encouraging more. In fact, it did the reverse in messages of "Thank you, but, no. Thank you!"

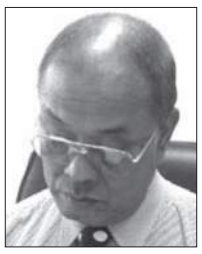
We did not hear much of bragging rights when Li Na took the French Open, and Ryu/Seo individually *Changgochum* (powerful sound dance), and together *Kanggangsuwollae* (circle dance) unobtrusively at the recent U.S. Golf Open, and we will not hear much from Nedeshiko, Japan's ladies soccer (international football) team that bested the U.S. women's team in the recent World Cup in Germany. The U.S. team was favored from the beginning to earn the World Cup this year, given both talent and experience, but pictures of tremor and tsunami-devastated Fukushima motivated the Nedeshiko *redi-zu* to out-kick U.S. women in the shoot-out that followed the tied score at the end of regulation time.

The Marianas have opened its doors to Japan, Korea and China. It is clear from the perspective of survival and sustenance that this island chain south of Iwo Jima inter-depends on the economic and cultural influence of the three groups of North Asian people. If the CNMI and Guam get its houses in order to learn and appropriate the forms and structures of democracy (not to mention, getting our tennis, golf and soccer fields in good shape), we might actually have something to share with the nations we have since recognized as neighbors.

Hey, how about inviting their tennis, golf and soccer women players?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Resolving 'just compensation'



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

As we actively debate the eventual disposition of Article 12, there's the longstanding issue of "just compensation" for land taken from private landowners before and after the war. It remains a longstanding issue where the government now uses these properties that assisted in the expansion of the local economy. But it has yet to satisfy the landowners who yearn for the final settlement of their land taken years ago for public purposes.

There's a recommendation I'd like to venture as an alternative to putting this matter behind us: Approve a legislative initiative to amend pertinent constitutional provision, postponing remittance of DPL funds to MPLT earmarking them for "just compensation." There should be a sunset clause for reversion to current procedure upon final settlement of all land claims. It's an alternative in the wake of scarce resources to justly compensate landowners.

In essence, we're not paying a debt but a major investment over the last 60 years in the acquisition, opening, and establishment of major roadways that allowed major industries like tourism and other commercial ventures full establishment. It also accommodated other needs of the community, from fishing and farming to commercial development, to name a few. Imagine if landowners simply blocked what's theirs for lack of just compensation. We would have been stuck in no man's land in any and all efforts to improve the general livelihood of our people.

This temporary arrangement would require innovative methods of payment. For instance, the interest per case is a real huge sum. Reason? It stops the day a final settlement is signed by both DPL and land claimant. So that no further expense is incurred on claims, this part of the settlement must be paid in full first and foremost. Or if money is available for final settlement, then the better off we would be in the final settlement of all land claims. The initial estimate for all claims is about $150 million. It's better than needlessly floating another bond obligation to pile on the shoulders of our children.

At a time when the economy has melted way below expectations, it's fitting that we find ways to resolve this longstanding issue in less painful fashion. The only adverse impact such an initiative would have is the annual budget of MPLT, an issue that could easily be reduced to skeletal level in order to satisfy and resolve this matter once and for all.

Assuming that this recommendation makes it through both chambers and approved by the electorate, a special account could be established under DPL's charge to review and resolve land claims once and for all. It's about time that we explore every avenue available to satisfy pending claims by land claimants. Many of them have died and many more are in their golden years hoping for real answers to pipe dreams. I'd like to encourage our legislators to push for an initiative in this regard to put this matter to rest. Land claimants deserve nothing less.

■■■

Owning-up to our responsibilities

We finally donned our set of lenses that would enable us to see in full view the ugly effects of the devastating economic meltdown on the islands. The combined federal and local negligence was exacerbated by the lack of a local socio-economic plan to use as a barometer or credible guidance as we consider the next move.

The uncertainty was further fueled by the CNMI's lawsuit on labor vs. the U.S. Homeland Security. DHS had to stop and ponder what the court decision would be. It was forced to delay the timely preparation of pertinent regulations relating to investment, labor requirements, visa waiver, etc.

The slow thawing of the culture of reluctance confirms our apparent inability coming to grips with the fact that there's more to the exercise of self-government than the constant search for the perfect scapegoat to blame in perpetuity. It further confirms the dire need to revisit the first principles—essence of the U.S. Constitution—in hopes that we muster maturity to deal with our individual and collective moral obligations to do what's right for *all* citizens. It's time to begin owning up to our responsibilities.

Stunning how our once famous sense of harmony founded on communal relationship has slowly disappeared in the rough seas of change. Perhaps we've been too busy adapting to the ways of others as to ignore sustaining the very essence of our unique cultural fabric that has held us together for over 500 years. Our ancestors must be turning in their graves as we opt to ignore the time-honored tradition of resolution of differences before sunset.

Through the years, we've complained that we don't need economists or technical expertise to tell us what we already know. Excuse me, please back up a little: If there's truth to such claim understandably riddled with arrogance, then where is the truth in "what we already know?" Why the assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior to defray the cost of a socio-economic plan? It confirms that without it, we'd be repeating grand failure, as is the case today.

Wasn't it in the mid-'90s when JAL, Hotel Nikko and other hotels were sold, including the closure of the apparel industry and other major players? Would negative tidings of how major investors left the CNMI work in our favor? Is there a future for large investments in the near and far term? If so, what are they and would they be comparable to what we had in recent past? Or would this notion be a pipe dream for several decades before something worthy of consideration appears in the horizon?

It goes without saying that the CNMI can't play opossum when Interior begins to put together the next socio-economic plan. We must proactively participate so that at the end of the day, the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. The study would be an involved package requiring an understanding of economics, the goals and objectives to be followed, time line to achieve those goals, requisite policies to aid in the attainment of goals, and refinement of policies as we move along. This should become the bible, especially for policymakers whose fiduciary duty is to ensure the timely approval of policies to facilitate goals set under the plan.

With a sense of purpose, confidence, clarity and consistency, we can make it over the next hurdle, placing utmost importance in refining policies for the good of the Northern Marianas community. Sorry, there's no more room for mediocrity and failure!

Creating a business that operates without you

"You can't be one person in one area of life and another person in another area of life. Life is one indivisible whole."—Mahatma Ghandi

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches business owners through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable business that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

The ultimate objective of most business owners is to create a consistently profitable business that can operate without you. That "without you" part means that you should be able to achieve success in business, along with a balanced lifestyle in the process so your business life is in harmony with your personal life, and both of them give you more life.

By contrast, some business owners are so focused on the success of their business that their personal life suffers. Robert Louis Stevenson said: "Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things." So that you know exactly what I'm talking about, let me give you a quick overview of the six dimensions in both your personal and your business life.

Your capacity to develop and achieve balanced growth in these six individual dimensions will affect the quality of your life. They are your intellectual, professional, physical, relational, and financial capacities.

Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner refers to eight different abilities that he calls our multiple intelligences. Now it may not be possible to develop equally in all six dimensions because we all have strengths and passions that drive us in one or more of the areas. Some may even be limited because they are challenged in an area. However, neglecting any of them over a long period of time can have a detrimental effect on you as a whole person.

Your goal should be to identify, develop, and maximize your unique abilities so that you can bring value to others. Here are the three guidelines to help you in that process:

1. Your Calling: This is the unique ability that motivates you and becomes your driving force. Goeth observed: "The man who is born with a talent which he is meant to use, finds his greatest happiness in using it."

2. Your Contribution: You should add value to the lives of others through your contributions. In the beginning your contribution may be small, but as you continue to use your talents, your ability increases.

3. Your Capacity: Through continued contributions, you will develop a greater capacity to add value to the lives of others. The reciprocal affect will be that your life will be blessed with greater abundance because of the value that comes back to you.

Now let's turn the discussion to the importance of understanding and developing the six dimensions of your business. An individual's six dimensions correlate to an organization's six dimensions, and there are similar implications if one or more are neglected. The business dimensions are innovation and growth, professional development, operational capability, stakeholder relationships, marketing strength, and financial improvement.

Your business will have strengths and weakness in each of these areas and there may be some that are emphasized more than others. However, none should be neglected as your organization grows. The advantage your organization has over your individual ability to progress in the six dimensions is that you can hire others to focus on the areas in your business you feel are your weaknesses, while you can only focus on those areas that are part of "your calling" or unique ability. As your business grows, you can place capable individuals in all the important roles and responsibilities of your company so that it is balanced in all six dimensions. This will allow you to remain focused on your calling, give a greater contribution, and develop your full capacity—and so will everyone else in your company.

Can you imagine the accelerated growth that you would enjoy if everyone who works within your organization feels like they are fulfilling their calling by making a greater contribution to customers and the community, and increasing their capacity to serve as the organization continues to grow?

Not only would this reflect on the bottom line, it would have a great impact throughout your organization as turnover decreases, more customers become loyal to your business, and the general culture is positive, encouraging, and stimulating.

Once this occurs, work becomes play and your business becomes a finely tuned vehicle that can take you to wherever you want to go. In the process, it will add more life to you, your staff, and the customers you serve. Ultimately, you will be able to step out of your business and allow it to operate without your presence so you can pursue other passions, or just spend less time in it while you develop yourself in other ways.

SPACE

From Page 10

left behind, no national outcries of sorrow. Unlike the televised disasters that were the shuttles Challenger and Columbia, many men died without a nation's recognition of their important work. Their widows and children drew what strength they could from knowing their pilot husbands and fathers were doing what they loved to do: pushing the envelope, testing the unknown, flying.

Who knows what the next generation of space flight will look like or what insignia will be affixed to the ship's exterior. It's as likely to be a corporate logo as it is a nation's flag. But as routine as liftoffs and landings may seem to the general public, they are dangerous business.

Yes, today's technology is more sophisticated, the computers and materials used to manufacture the parts more exact. But it is still flesh and blood that sits behind the controls; those are men and women strapped inside these behemoths made of plastics and composites, electronics and robotics.

Take a minute to at least remember their names.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

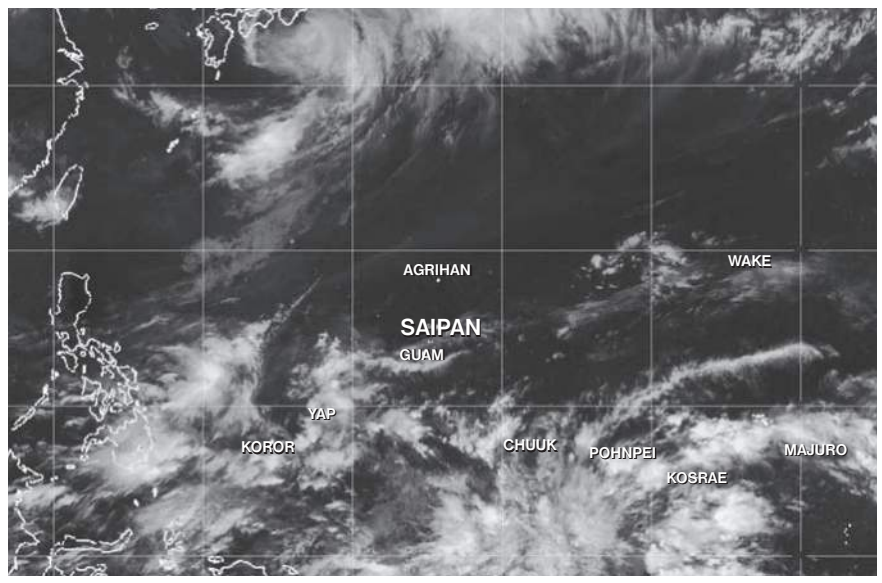
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼56
Beijing	Rain	▲84	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲67	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲90	▼73
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Paris	Rain	▲69	▼55
Pusan	Windy	▲80	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼70
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼69
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging surface winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror south of a line from 8N130E to 8N135E to 3N141E. A surface trough curves southeastward from 14N134E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N141E then stretches east-southeastward to another circulation south of Chuuk near 1N150E and continues on to end near EQ158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found across Yap within 120 miles of a line from 6N139E to 13N139E west of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 9N142E to 8N150E and south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 146E to 158E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 158E to 168E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers north of Kosrae and near Kwajalein and Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 7N163E to 8N171E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:41 PM	10:37 AM
Friday	11:19 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday	11:58 PM	12:12 PM
Sunday		1:01 PM
Monday	12:41 AM	1:52 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

GOP pushes huge deficit-cutting bill through House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defying a veto threat, the Republican-controlled House voted Tuesday night to slice federal spending by $6 trillion and require a constitutional balanced budget amendment to be sent to the states in exchange for averting a threatened Aug. 2 government default.

The 234-190 vote marked the power of deeply conservative first-term Republicans, and it stood in contrast to rising support at the White House and in the Senate for a late stab at bipartisanship to solve the nation's looming debt crisis.

President Barack Obama and a startling number of Republican senators lauded a deficit-reduction plan put forward earlier in the day that would include $1 trillion in what sponsors delicately called "additional revenue" and some critics swiftly labeled as higher taxes.

The president said he hoped congressional leaders would "start talking turkey" on a deal to reduce deficits and raise the $14.3 trillion debt limit as soon as Wednesday, using the plan by the so-called Senate Gang of Six as a roadmap.

Wall Street cheered the news of possible compromise as well. The Dow Jones industrials average soared 202 points, the biggest one-day leap this year.

Treasury officials say that without an increase in U.S. borrowing authority by Aug. 2, the government will not be able to pay all its bills, and default could result with severe consequences for the economy.

But a few hours after Obama spoke at the White House, supporters of the newly passed House measure breathed defiance.

"Let me be clear. This is the compromise. This is the best plan out there," said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, head of a conservative group inside the House known as the Republican Study Committee.

The legislation, dubbed "Cut, Cap and Balance" by supporters, would make an estimated $111 billion in immediate reductions and ensure that overall spending declined in the future in relation to the overall size of the economy.

It also would require both houses of Congress to approve a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and send it to the states for ratification.

With a dwindling amount of time remaining, the day's events did little to suggest a harmonious end was in sight to a clash between the parties.

Senate Democrats have announced they will oppose the House passed-measure, although it could take two or three days to complete debate.

Debate in the House was along predictable lines, and only nine Republicans opposed the bill and five Democrats supported it on final passage.

"Our bloated and obese federal budget needs a healthy and balanced diet, one that trims the fat of overspending and grows the muscle of our nation's economy," said Rep. Reid Ribble of Wisconsin during debate on the measure.

Ribble is one of 87 first-term House Republicans determined to reduce the size of government.

Amending the Constitution

1. Proposing an amendment

Proposal must be passed by two-thirds of each house of Congress

or

by a national convention called by Congress

2. Ratifying an amendment

Proposal must be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states

or

by conventions in three-fourths of the states

3. About amendments

- ☑ Only 27 have been ratified
- ☑ Six other amendments have been sumbitted to the states, but not ratified
- ☑ Cannot be vetoed by president

Source: U.S. Constitution Center © 2011 MCT

Democrats said the measure, with its combination of cuts and spending limits, would inflict damage on millions who rely on Social Security, Medicare and other programs. "The Republicans are trying to repeal the second half of the 20th century," said Rep. Sander Levin, D-Michigan.

House Speaker John Boehner played a muted role in public during the day. He did not speak on the House floor on the legislation.

In recognition of the political realities, he told reporters that it also was "responsible to look at what Plan B would look like."

He did not discuss what alternatives he had in mind, although the Senate's top two leaders have been at work on one that would let the president raise the debt limit without prior approval by Congress.

The "Gang of Six" briefed other senators on the group's plan after a seemingly quixotic quest that took months, drew disdain at times from the leaders of both parties and appeared near failure more than once.

It calls for deficit cuts of slightly less than $4 trillion over a decade and includes steps to slow the growth of Social Security payments, cut at least $500 billion from Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs and wring billions in savings from programs across the face of government.

It envisions tax changes that would reduce existing breaks for a number of popular items while reducing the top income bracket from the current 35 percent to 29 percent or less.

The tax overhaul "must be estimated to provide $1 trillion in additional revenue to meet plan targets," according to a summary that circulated in the Capitol.

Some Republicans noted a claim contained in the summary that congressional bookkeeping rules could consider the plan a tax cut of $1.5 trillion—a yardstick that credits sponsors for retaining income tax cuts enacted when George W. Bush was president.

The group of six includes three Democrats, Sens. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Mark Warner of Virginia and Dick Durbin of Illinois, a member of the leadership.

Agency designed to shield consumers in financial marketplace set to begin work

By TONY PUGH
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—The most tangible government reform to grow out of the Great Recession officially goes live this week when the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau assumes its regulatory authority on Thursday.

Created by the sweeping Dodd-Frank financial overhaul bill last summer, the bureau will serve as America's "beat cop" against deceptive, abusive and predatory loan products in the financial marketplace.

"This agency was created one year ago to stand up for consumers, and we are ready to get to work," said Elizabeth Warren, the assistant to the president who championed the agency's creation and has led efforts to set it up.

The bureau marks a significant triumph for consumer advocates who've waged a largely uphill battle trying to get the financial industry to adopt even modest reforms to help protect consumers. Many say the fight just got a little easier.

Much as the Environmental Protection Agency consolidated federal efforts against air, water and land pollution in the 1970s, the new consumer bureau will enforce nearly 20 federal consumer finance laws previously handled by seven agencies.

That splintered enforcement left regulators slow to respond as dangerous loan products entered the marketplace, helping to precipitate the nation's housing collapse in 2008.

The new bureau, while a division of the Federal Reserve, will work as a stand-alone agency to make sure customers know the terms of loan products by cutting the fine print, simplifying forms and helping to illuminate costly penalties and fees that often are hidden.

Safer credit cards, student loans and mortgages—with the risks and costs clearly delineated—will allow consumers to make more educated choices and comparison shop for the best deals. The bureau already is working to condense two federal mortgage disclosure forms into one.

The agency was Warren's dream. Many hoped she'd become its first director. But after Warren drew strong opposition from congressional Republicans and finance lobbyists, President Barack Obama on Monday nominated former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to head the bureau. Warren previously had selected Cordray to help her run the agency.

Some 44 Senate Republicans signed a letter in May vowing to block any nominee for director unless the agency's structure is revamped. If they hold firm, that's enough to block Cordray's Senate confirmation. And under the Dodd-Frank law, many of the agency's powers cannot be executed until a director is confirmed—so the GOP stand threatens to cripple the new consumer champion at birth.

On Monday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the bureau "represents a government-driven solution to a problem government helped create."

Republicans want the bureau's funding to go through the congressional budget process, unlike other banking regulators. Doing so would allow the banking industry to pressure Congress to cut the bureau's funding.

The new agency also will be the only federal banking regulator with a capped budget.

"It's a recipe for a do-nothing agency," said Travis Plunkett, legislative director for the Consumer Federation of America, referring to Republican proposals to govern the bureau by a multi-member commission rather than a single director, and to make it easier to veto its rules.

Until the Senate confirms a director, the agency won't be able to oversee non-depository institutions such as mortgage companies, payday lenders and credit bureaus—all new powers granted under the Dodd-Frank law. But it will have authority to examine and oversee large banks, since that power was transferred from existing regulators.

The agency has already hired about 500 people, and more than 1,200 are expected to be on board by the end of 2012 at the bureau's Washington, Chicago, New York and San Francisco offices.

The agency, funded mainly through the Federal Reserve, expects to spend $143 million this fiscal year and $329 million in fiscal 2012. More than half the resources will go toward the supervision, enforcement and fair-lending division, which will police financial institutions.

New consumer watchdog

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is designed to protect U.S. consumers against deceptive, abusive and predatory products in the financial marketplace.

What the CFPB will do

As people take out mortgages, use credit cards, checking accounts, payday loans or other financial services, the CFPB will:

- **Implement and enforce** federal consumer financial laws
- **Review** business practices to ensure that financial services providers are following the law
- **Monitor** the marketplace and take appropriate action to make sure markets work as transparently as they can for consumers
- **Establish** a toll-free consumer hotline, a website for complaints and questions about consumer financial products and services

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Source: U.S. Treasury Department; Professor Adam J. Levitin, Georgetown University
Graphic: Judy Treible

Will the CFPB have government oversight?

Oversight of the CFPB compared with other federal agencies:

	CFPB	EPA	FDIC	FRB	FTC	OCC	OTS	SEC
		Agency names listed below						
Budget subject to appropriations		X			X			X
Budget capped	X							
Review of economically significant regulations*		X			X	X	X	
Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act review*	X	X						
Financial Stability Oversight Council veto	X							
Annual Government Accountability Office audit	X							
Term in office less than 5 years		X						
Five-member commission			X	X	X			X
Bipartisan representation required			X		X			
Presidential removal without cause		X						

Agencies listed: Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Office of Thrift Supervision, Securities and Exchange Commission

*by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,587.42	1,326.73	2,826.52
+202.26	0.00	+61.41
+1.63%	0.00%	+2.22%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9331	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7928	Philippine Peso	42.798
British Pound	0.6205	Indian Rupee	44.4755	Singapore Dollar	1.2149
Canadian Dollar	0.9512	Indonesian Rupiah	8535	South Korean Won	1055.55
Chinese Yuan	6.4567	Japanese Yen	79.087	Swiss Franc	0.8242
Euro	0.7073	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0023	Taiwan Dollar	28.8768
		New Zealand Dollar	1.172	Thailand Baht	29.89

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom, 3 daughters from Colo. killed in Wyo. washout

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Four members of a Colorado Springs family died after their vehicle drove into a washed-out section of a mountain highway in Wyoming and was swept downstream by a raging creek as they fled torrential rains at a national forest campground. A mother and her three young daughters were killed; only the husband and father managed to escape as the van was carried away. Officials said debris in the creek blocked large culverts that run under the highway and the water then tore through the roadway, opening a 25-foot-wide, 9-foot-deep breach about 20 miles from Saratoga in the southern part of the state.

Ore. suspect in 5 deaths was convicted molester

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon man suspected of killing his wife and four children and setting fire to their house had been convicted of molesting children in California 21 years ago, court records show. Jordan Adam Criado, 51, remained hospitalized Tuesday in a hospital in Medford, where police planned to arrest him as soon as he had recovered enough to leave. Criado's wife and children—ages 2, 5, 6 and 7—had stab wounds when they were pulled from their burning home on Monday, police said.

Fresno DA charges woman after deadly bus crash

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A woman accused of providing alcohol to a teenage driver who caused a deadly Greyhound bus crash has been charged with a misdemeanor, officials said Tuesday. Michelle Kay Cole, 22, was charged with purchasing an alcoholic beverage for a person under 21 resulting in death, Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth Egan said at a news conference. Cole was cited Monday but not arrested, Egan said. She could face up to six months in jail and a $1,000 fine if convicted. A California Highway Patrol report placed sole blame for the crash on 18-year-old Sylvia Garay. Investigators said she was drunk when her SUV hit a concrete barrier and overturned on Highway 99 on July 22, 2010.

Over 65 and not worried about heat? You should be

CHICAGO (AP)—This week's heat wave may be uncomfortable, but you're healthy, active and feel just fine. So what if you're over 65? Think again. Feeling good doesn't mean you're safe.

There are changes in an older person that raise the risk for heat stroke and other problems. An older body contains far less water than a younger one. Older brains can't sense temperature changes as well, and they don't recognize thirst as easily.

Blistering summer heat is an underappreciated killer, claiming by some estimates as many as 1,000 U.S. lives each year—more than any other type of weather.

One federal study found 40 percent of heat-related deaths were in people 65 and older. Those numbers could be lower if more heeded heat warnings aimed at seniors. Yet research has shown many people over 65 don't think the warnings apply to them—because they don't think they're "old."

Don Worden is 79 and an avid tennis buff who prefers playing doubles on outdoor courts along Chicago's lakefront—even in oppressive 90-degree temperatures like those hitting the Midwest this week.

"I don't pay too much attention to those" warnings, Worden said. "I stay in pretty good shape, and I don't feel they apply to me."

Worden said he drinks a lot of water and would stop a match if he started feeling effects from the heat, "but that hasn't happened."

Scott Sheridan, who studies the effects of heat and climate on health at Kent State University, researched how people over 65 view heat warnings. In his 2006 study of more than 900 people, he found about 70 percent knew about advice to drink plenty of water on very hot days, avoid outdoor activities and stay inside with air conditioning. But only about half said they followed the advice.

"People well into their 70s would say old people should watch out but not them," he said. "People just didn't want to be thought of in that same category."

Dr. David Zich, an emergency medicine specialist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, said he has colleagues in medicine that age who shun being thought of as "elderly." But those heat warnings apply to them, too.

As Dr. William Dale, geriatrics chief at the University of Chicago Medical Center explains it, "Any older adult has less reserve and is more likely to become dehydrated than others, just because their overall body water goes down with age no matter how healthy you are."

The amount of water in the body declines with aging, from about 80 percent in young adulthood to about 55 to 60 percent for people in their 80s, Dale said.

Temperature sensors in the brain become less sensitive as people age, so the body doesn't get the same signals to drink water in hot weather, and older people often don't feel thirsty even when they need to replenish, Dale said.

AP

ROAD COLLISION

Emergency personnel respond to the scene of an accident where police say a van full of farmers collided with another vehicle and a tractor, killing five passengers in the van and injuring 10 more, in the Yates County town of Benton, N.Y., Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Authorities have arrested the driver who passed the slow-moving farm tractor on a curve and sideswiped the van carrying 13 Amish farmers Tuesday, triggering a collision. Steven Eldridge, 42, of Penn Yan, was arraigned on five counts of criminally negligent homicide, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, unsafe passing, speed not reasonable and prudent, and failure to keep right after passing, according to the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Yates County Sheriff Ronald Spike said five people in the van were pronounced dead at the scene of the 12:40 p.m. crash and eight were taken to hospitals, some with "very serious" injuries.

Gov't advisers: No copays for contraceptives

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of women stand to gain free access to a broad menu of birth control methods, thanks to a recommendation issued Tuesday by health experts advising the government.

An Institute of Medicine panel recommended that the government require health insurance companies to cover birth control for women as preventive care, without copayments. Contraception—along with such care as diabetes tests during pregnancy and screening for the virus that causes cervical cancer—was one of eight recommended preventive services for women.

"Unintended pregnancies carry health consequences for the mother—psychological, emotional and physical—and also consequences for the newborn," said Dr. Linda Rosenstock, panel chairwoman and dean of public health at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The overwhelming evidence was strongly supportive of the health benefit" of contraception.

A half century after the introduction of the birth control pill, the panel's recommendations may help to usher in another revolution. Medical experts say easier access could start a shift to more reliable forms of long-acting birth control, such as implants or IUDs, which are gaining acceptance in other economically developed countries. Emergency contraception, known as the morning-after pill, would also be covered.

All but one member of the 16-person IOM panel supported the final recommendations.

President Barack Obama's health care law already requires most health plans to provide standard preventive care for people of both sexes at no additional charge to patients. Women's health recommendations were considered new and politically sensitive territory, so the nonpartisan institute was asked to examine the issue.

Nonetheless, a fight over social mores is brewing. Catholic bishops and other religious and social conservatives say pregnancy is a healthy condition and the government should not require insurance coverage of drugs and other methods that prevent it. (Most health plans already cover contraception.)

US copy of Magna Carta treated at US Archives

WASHINGTON (AP)—A painstaking conservation effort to remove old patches and repair weak spots in a 714-year-old copy of the Magna Carta has revealed that the full text of that English declaration of human rights remains intact even though some words are faded and illegible to the eye, the National Archives said Tuesday.

A $13.5 million gift from philanthropist David Rubenstein—owner of the handwritten document—is funding the conservation effort as well preparations for an upcoming exhibit.

Thanks to the gift, the largest cash donation to the National Archives, the copy of the Magna Carta eventually will be shown as a forerunner to the freedoms imagined in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. Plans call for exhibiting it along with documents showing the struggle for rights of African Americans, women, immigrants and others.

The Magna Carta bears the seal of King Edward I and is dated 1297. It is one of 17 known handwritten copies of the text that established a tradition for the rule of law that even kings would honor. It is the only original version in the Americas, while 15 are held by British institutions and one is held by Australia's Parliament.

Ultra-violet photography revealed the previously illegible writing and a fuller picture of the document's good condition, conservators told The Associated Press. Words on the right side of the text had been hidden by water damage at some point in the past.

Asia

Japan's crippled nuclear plant reaches stability

TOKYO (AP)—The crippled reactors at Japan's tsunami-hit nuclear power plant have reached stability more than four months since the disaster and the plant is on track for a cold shutdown within six months, the government and plant operator said Tuesday.

Workers have toiled in hot and harsh conditions to stabilize the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami destroyed reactor cooling systems, triggering partial meltdowns of the reactors and making the disaster the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl.

The assessment of reactor stability was based on several milestones: temperatures at the bottom of reactor pressure vessels are no longer climbing, a makeshift system to process contaminated water works properly after initial problems and nitrogen injections are helping prevent more explosions.

Radiation around the plant has shown a "sufficient decrease" from peak levels measured soon after the disaster.

The progress achieves TEPCO's initial goals of its road map to bring the plant under control, according to the report released by the government and TEPCO.

"The accident has not been resolved, but we have been making progress steadily," trade and industry minister Banri Kaieda said. "We will continue our utmost effort so that we can bring this to an end as soon as possible."

The work now shifts into a second stage, when workers will aim to further cut radiation released into the air, soil and water. They expect a cold shutdown sometime in January.

A reactor reaches cold shutdown when the temperature at the bottom of the reactor pressure vessel drops below 100 degrees Celsius, and when the release of radioactive materials is "under control."

TEPCO also said it will continue to improve conditions for workers by expanding temporary dormitories and onsite rest stations, as well as stronger controls over their radiation exposure.

Still, growing worries about radiation in Japan's beef supply underscored the widespread impact of the nuclear accident.

The central government Tuesday instructed Fukushima to suspend shipment of all beef cows raised in the prefecture.

Powerful earthquake hits southern Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—A powerful earthquake measuring 6.2 struck a mountainous location in southern Kyrgyzstan on the border with Uzbekistan early Wednesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

No casualties or serious damage were immediately reported from the temblor, which hit at about 1:35 a.m. local time in an area some 35 kilometers (22 miles) away from the Uzbek city of Ferghana, which has a population of more than 200,000.

In Andijan, the next largest city in Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley, roughly 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the epicenter, residents told The Associated Press that many people had left their homes in panic and were standing in the streets.

A duty officer at the Emergency Services Ministry in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, said he had no precise information about the fallout of the quake.

A Russian news agency reported people feeling the quake as far away as Dushanbe, the capital of neighboring Tajikistan, at least 300 kilometers (185 miles) southwest of the epicenter.

Online news portal Kloop.kg cited the mayor of one of the villages in Kyrgyzstan closest to the quake, Kyzyl-Kiya, as saying that the plaster had been shaken off the walls of some old homes, but that there were no significant indications of damage.

"I am with the people and trying to keep them calm. Police, emergency services, power and water utilities, everything is working," Mayor Khabiybulla Kalmurzayev told the site.

According to unverified online testimonies on the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre, the temblor also was felt to the north in the town of Talas in Kazakhstan, 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the epicenter.

"My parents ran into my room and got me and my 9-month-old son up. The floor was shaking and the furniture was trembling. We all rushed to the entrance door and stood under the door frame for 5 minutes, being afraid of aftershocks," a resident in Talas wrote.

Quakes are a relatively frequent occurrence in this mountainous region of former Soviet Central Asia.

ELECTION FRAUD
A police escort gestures as former Commission on Elections official Lintang Bedol is presented to the media during a press conference Tuesday, July 19, 2011 in Manila, Philippines. Bedol, who was allegedly linked to massive election fraud during the 2004 presidential election, surrendered to the authorities on Tuesday. Bedol is expected to serve a six-month imprisonment meted out for ignoring summons to appear in a hearing four years ago, the Commission on Elections announced Monday. Bedol has raised allegations of election irregularities in 2004 and 2007 against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. AP

UN draws DMZ for Thai, Cambodia troops

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The U.N.'s highest court has created a demilitarized zone around a 1,000-year-old temple on the disputed border between Cambodia and Thailand, and ordered the armed forces from both countries to withdraw.

Both countries said they were satisfied with the ruling by the International Court of Justice, meant to end clashes that have claimed about 20 lives in the last three years and have displaced tens of thousands of people from the area around the Preah Vihear temple.

But Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said that Thai soldiers will not pull out from the disputed area until the military of both countries agree on the mutual withdrawal.

"We need to talk to the Cambodians as the Cambodians also have to pull out their troops," Abhisit said at a news conference in Bangkok.

"So there has to be some kind of mechanism to verify, to do it in an orderly manner. And therefore it depends on the two sides to come together and talk," he said, suggesting that an existing joint border committee would be the appropriate place to plan a coordinated pullback.

In The Hague, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said the establishment of a demilitarized zone would mean "a permanent cease-fire. It will be tantamount to a cessation of aggression" by Thailand.

In brief remarks to reporters outside the courtroom, he made no reference to the demand for Cambodian troops to abandon the temple grounds.

200 miles
200 km
LAOS
Demilitarized zone
U.N. has set up a DMZ around Preah Vihear Temple, a U.N. World Heritage site
THAILAND
Bangkok
CAMBODIA
Gulf of Thailand
Phnom Penh
Sacred temple
• 11th century Hindu temple belongs to Cambodia under a 1962 international court ruling
• Thailand claimed surrounding land; Cambodia's only access up a steep hillside
Source: ESRI
© 2011 MCT

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino lawmakers visit disputed isle, defy China

PAG-ASA ISLAND, South China Sea (AP)—A group of Filipino lawmakers has flown to a Philippine-occupied island in the disputed South China Sea to assert their country's claim to the potentially oil-rich region in defiance of China's protest that the visit threatens regional stability. Dozens of Filipino troops and sun-burned villagers on Wednesday welcomed the four-member congressional delegation on Pag-asa. Although tiny and a large part of it made up of a gravel airstrip, the island is the biggest in a cluster of the Spratly Islands that the Philippines claims as it own. China claims the entire South China Sea and said Tuesday the trip would sabotage bilateral ties. The visitors, government employees and troops sang the national anthem after a Philippine flag was raised on the island.

Report: Deadly NZ quake uncovers Israeli spy ring

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand newspaper group is reporting that the deadly February earthquake in Christchurch unearthed a suspected Israeli spy ring. Three Israelis died in the quake that killed 181 people. Other Israelis escaped the quake. The Fairfax newspaper group, which didn't state how it obtained the information, said one of the Israelis who died was carrying at least five passports. Fairfax said New Zealand Prime Minister John Key took four calls from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following the quake, and that an unaccredited Israeli search and rescue squad searching a cordoned area in Christchurch was stopped by New Zealand officers.

Pakistan: Shelling from Afghanistan kills 4 troops

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Mortar shells and artillery fired from Afghanistan killed four Pakistani paramilitary troops in a tribal region Tuesday, the Pakistani army said. It was the latest in a spate of cross-border attacks that have raised tensions between Kabul and Islamabad. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said the Frontier Corps soldiers died in the Angoor Ada area of South Waziristan, a northwestern region where the military has fought the Pakistani Taliban. The military relies heavily on paramilitary troops to police the lengthy, porous border.

Thousands join Indonesian mass wedding reception

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Thousands of underprivileged Indonesian newlyweds from various faiths have joined a mass reception to receive free marriage certificates that they otherwise could not afford. About 15,000 attended the reception Tuesday at the Senayan Sports Palace, including Jakarta city officials and friends and family members of the 4,541 couples. The couples included 3,112 Muslims, 1,248 Christians, 96 Catholics and 85 Buddhists, Hindus and Chinese from across the Indonesian capital. The couples from low-income families were married in separate mass ceremonies in the past three months. The last group of 200 couples tied the knot last week.

ASEAN, China approve 'guidelines' for disputed sea

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Senior Chinese and Southeast Asian officials say they have agreed on guidelines to govern behavior in the hotly disputed and resource-rich South China Sea. Chinese diplomat Liu Zhenmin called it a "milestone document." For years, Beijing has resisted calls for a binding code of conduct that would require disputes in the waterway to be solved peacefully and without threats of violence. But in a rare sign of cooperation, Zhenmin and officials from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed Wednesday that the two sides would work together toward reaching that goal. The South China Sea, a busy shipping lane believed to be rich in oil and natural gas, is claimed in entirety by China, Taiwan and Vietnam and in part by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

World

Guinean president survives assassination attempt

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Guinea's president narrowly survived an assassination attempt Tuesday after gunmen encircled his home overnight and pounded his bedroom with heavy-artillery, throwing into doubt the stability of the country's first democratically elected government in a part of the world that has long been ruled by the gun.

President Alpha Conde was saved because he was sleeping in a different room when the shooting erupted outside his residence at around 3 a.m. Rocket-propelled grenades landed inside the compound and one of his bodyguards was killed, said Francois Louceny Fall, a minister at the presidency who acts as Conde's chief of staff. The bedroom was ripped apart by bazooka and RPG-7 fire, Conde said in an interview with French radio RFI.

The 73-year-old Conde later addressed the nation on state radio, saying his security detail had "heroically fought starting at 3:10 a.m. until reinforcements arrived." He urged the population to remain calm and said the attack would not derail the promises he made to voters seven months ago when he became the first democratically elected leader in Guinea's 52-year history.

"If your hand is in the hand of God, nothing can happen to you. ... Our enemies can try everything, but they will not stop the march of the Guinean people," Conde said in his address.

AP

In this July 1, 2011 file photo, Guinean President Alpha Conde looks on during the closing session of the 17th African Union Summit, at Sipopo Conference Center, outside Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

"Guinea is one country. We are united, for we cannot grow if we are not united. Let us not accept to be divided."

Just hours later, shooting broke out again near his home and residents say they saw the red-beret-wearing presidential guard take fighting positions.

Conde was inside meeting with the French ambassador and the diplomat was forced to lay on the floor to avoid the bullets, the president said on RFI. A bodyguard who was close to the former strongman was arrested attempting to pierce the police cordon aoround the house, Fall told The Associated Press by telephone.

Soldiers fanned out across the capital city located on a peninsula jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean on Africa's western coast. They tied ropes between trees at intersections, and traffic was at a standstill as each car was stopped and drivers were told to open their trunks. Military helicopters circled overhead. Shops and schools were closed.

Tens of millions of dollars were invested by the international community to ensure last year's transparent vote, and a coup would be a major setback for the region, analysts said.

"It just shows the fragility of the country," said Guinea-based election expert Elizabeth Cote of the International Foundation for Election Systems.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe spoke by telephone Tuesday with Conde to express his nation's support, his ministry said in a statement. "The return of democracy to Guinea ... constitutes an example for Africa," Juppe said.

Until last year, Guinea was one of the continent's failed states, a country with an abominable human rights record whose destiny was determined not by the ballot box but by the mood of officers inside the capital's barracks.

The first coup in 1984 brought a colonel who ruled until his death 24 years later. After his death in 2008, another coup brought an army captain to power known for his frightening temper and his taste for televised interrogations of opponents. Capt. Moussa 'Dadis' Camara was deposed a year later when his bodyguard shot him in the head.

In between, the captain's men led a massacre of pro-democracy protesters whose bodies were buried in mass graves, according to Human Rights Watch.

Murdoch rejects blame for hack scandal at hearing

LONDON (AP)—Summoned by lawmakers to answer for a phone hacking and bribery scandal at one of his tabloids, Rupert Murdoch said he was humbled and ashamed Tuesday but accepted no responsibility for wrongdoing as a widening investigation threatened to ensnare Britain's prime minister.

In a three-hour grilling, the 80-year-old media tycoon insisted he was at fault only for trusting the wrong people at the now-defunct News of the World, and noted that the paper made up a tiny portion of his vast media empire.

The scandal has rocked Murdoch's News Corp. and embroiled Britain's top police, many journalists and politicians. Prime Minister David Cameron cut short his Africa trip to appear before a special parliamentary question session on Wednesday.

Murdoch appeared confused and flustered in the beginning of Tuesday's parliamentary hearing, turning frequently to his son James for answers. But he soon regained his trademark cool.

He said he had known nothing of allegations that staff at the News of the World tabloid hacked into cell phones and bribed police to get information on celebrities, politicians and crime victims, and that he never would have approved such "horrible invasions" of privacy.

In the face of lawmakers' suggestions that his organization encouraged such behavior, he was unflappable—even after a protester rushed at him in the middle of the hearing.

He stayed seated when the man tried to throw a foam pie at him. A News Corp. attorney partially blocked the attack and Murdoch's 42-year-old wife slapped the prankster. After the protester was arrested, the billionaire simply shed his splattered suit jacket and continued answering questions.

The scandal has captivated audiences from America to Murdoch's native Australia, and there's more to come—only a fraction of the nearly 4,000 people whose information was hacked are known and the police investigation appears to be widening. Murdoch has already shut the News of the World, given up on buying a major British satellite television company and accepted the resignations of two top executives because of the scandal.

He said he had no plans to resign but expressed contrition on behalf of News Corp.'s British newspaper division, News International.

"This is the most humble day of my career," said Murdoch, a man once so politically powerful in Britain that former Prime Minister Tony Blair flew halfway around the world to secure his support as he launched the Labour Party's bid for power in 1995.

AP

In this image made from television, Rupert Murdoch, following an attempted assault, gives evidence without his jacket to a House of Commons Committee on the News of the World phone-hacking scandal.

Chile: Scientific autopsy confirms Allende suicide

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A scientific autopsy has confirmed that Chilean President Salvador Allende committed suicide during the 1973 coup that toppled his socialist government, court officials announced on Tuesday.

British ballistics expert David Prayer said Allende died of two shots fired from an assault rifle that was held between his legs and under his chin and was set to fire automatically. The bullets blew out the top of his head and killed him instantly.

The forensics team's conclusion is unanimous, Spanish expert Francisco Etxeberria said: "We have absolutely no doubt" that Allende committed suicide.

Prayer said there were two bullets fired, two casings recovered and that there is no evidence a second person was involved in Allende's death. That ruled out theories that Allende, the first socialist in the Americas to come to power at the ballot box, was killed by the military as troops stormed the presidential palace during the coup led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Allende had said he wouldn't be taken alive even as Pinochet ordered an all-out attack on La Moneda. The palace was bombed by fighter jets and the air thick with tear gas and smoke as the building went up in flames. Allende had ordered his allies to surrender, but he stayed behind. What happened next has always been shrouded in mystery.

AP

In this 1971 file photo, President Salvador Allende waves to supporters in Chile. A scientific autopsy has confirmed that Allende committed suicide during the 1973 coup, Chilean court officials announced Tuesday.

The deposed president's body was exhumed in May for its first authoritative autopsy as Chile's independent judiciary began a criminal investigation into the death of Allende and hundreds of other victims of the Pinochet dictatorship.

Dr. Patricio Bustos, who directs Chile's Medical Legal Service, announced the autopsy results, which he described as definitive. Ever since Allende's death, Chile's military has held that he committed suicide, while others, notably Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Nobel Prize-winning writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, wrote that Allende went down fighting. Others more recently claimed he tried to kill himself but was only gravely wounded and was then killed by a bodyguard, who then died as well.

The experts also determined that Allende died using the AK-47 Castro had given him while visiting Chile two years earlier.

This autopsy supports the version of Dr. Patricio Guijon, who had been part of Allende's medical team and said he alone happened to witness the death.

WORLD BRIEFS

Libyan troops kill 8 rebels near eastern oil town

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)—Government forces in trucks disguised with rebel flags shelled opposition positions Tuesday near the strategic eastern oil town of Brega, killing eight rebel fighters and wounding dozens more, officials said. In an audio message directed at a rally of thousands in the town of al-Aziziya, south of Tripoli, embattled ruler Moammar Gadhafi emphasized the importance of Libya's vast oil wealth to his regime, and called the civil war a battle "for our way of life." Rebel forces have been pushing to seize the front-line town of Brega, which is home to an oil refinery and terminal, for nearly a week, but they say fields of land mines planted by Gadhafi's forces have slowed the advance.

Putin's female fans call for 3rd presidency

MOSCOW (AP)—Dozens of Vladimir Putin's young, female fans have banded together in a group dubbed "Putin's Army" to call out to like-minded girls to strip down in support of his return to the presidency. Members of the group shot a suggestive and racy video featuring attractive women who tout Putin's virtues as a national leader and all-around "awesome man." In the clip, one woman calls on potential members to produce their own videos and "tell us what you would do for your president." At the end of the video, which has gone viral in Russia, viewers are encouraged to "tear it up" for Putin as a girl pulls down her white tank top to reveal her bra.

Focus

US builds up its e-warfare arsenal

By W.J. HENNIGAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—In the skies above Libya, the U.S. Navy has been deploying a small fleet of supersonic EA-18 Growler jets to "jam" Moammar Gadhafi's ground radar, giving NATO fighters and bombers free rein to strike tanks, communication depots and other strategic targets.

It's the latest demonstration of "electronic attack" hardware—the "EA" in the Growler's name. Armies have been waging electronic warfare since World War II, but today's technology packs a strategic wallop unforeseen even a decade ago.

With foreign adversaries continuing to improve their radar capabilities and air defense networks, and terrorists worldwide using modern consumer electronics to trigger explosives, the United States is spending billions of dollars in a massive effort to respond. These jammers, for instance, spew radio waves and emit other electromagnetic noise to jumble enemy electronic signals.

"War fighters have gone from using physical weapons like spears and knives to chemical weapons such as gunpowder and explosives, to electronics with radio waves and computer codes," said Peter W. Singer, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "It's a natural evolution in warfare."

At a time when the defense budget is being eyed for cuts, electronic attack technology is one of the few areas—along with drones and cyber security—in which President Barack Obama wants to boost spending.

The Pentagon is seeking to increase its technology research budget, which includes electronic warfare, to $12.2 billion in fiscal 2012 from $11.8 billion—and that doesn't include spending in the classified portion of the budget.

Critics cite this type of military spending as another example of bloat in the $729 billion defense budget.

"Of course there will be priorities, but the government has to ask themselves at some point: 'Do we really need this?' " said Laura Peterson, a national security analyst for Taxpayers for Common Sense, a government watchdog group. "We haven't seen the kind of discipline that's needed to really rein back the defense budget."

The Pentagon has also requested $1.1 billion for 12 more Growlers, even as defense contractors are vying for lucrative rights to build the next generation of jamming devices, which would vastly expand the military's ability to disrupt and deceive enemy electronics.

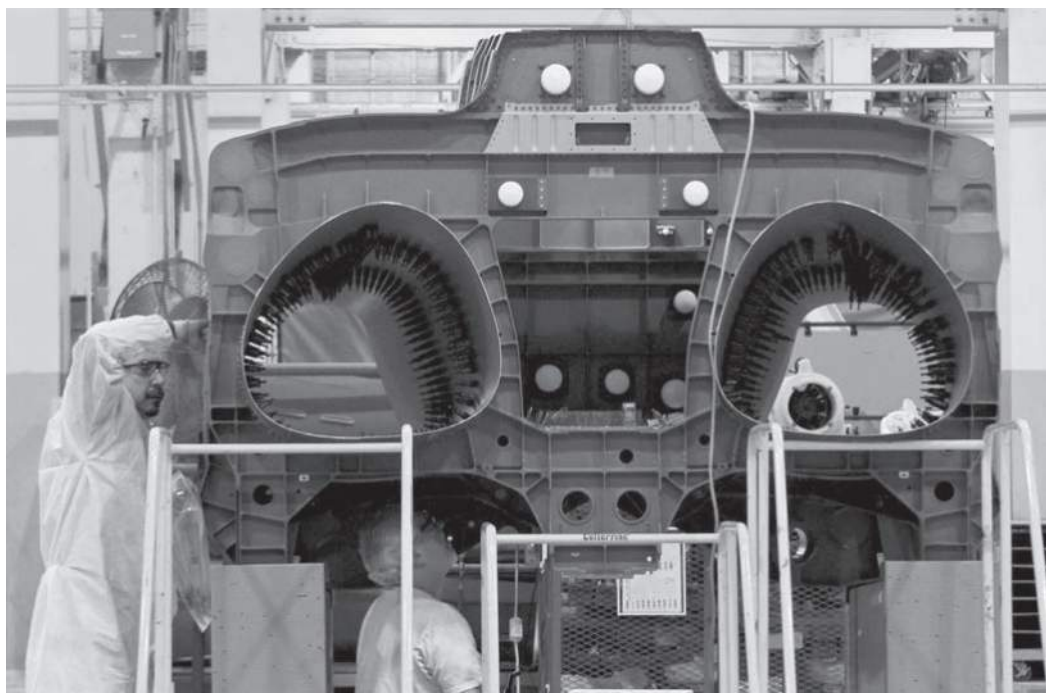
But defenders of jamming technology say it is cost effective because it prevents planes from the U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization from getting shot down.

"An increase in funding is needed to maintain the edge in electronic warfare," said Loren Thompson, defense policy analyst for the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va. "Other nations have drastically improved their electronics systems and gotten better defending against electronic attacks."

Electronic warfare technology—much of it top secret—aims to counterbalance foreign militaries' multimillion-dollar investments in shoring up air defenses and continuing advancements in radar detection.

With a price tag of about $74 million each, Boeing Co.'s Growler is a showpiece of American electronic know-how, with high-powered radar systems made by Raytheon Co. and tactical radar jammers produced by ITT Electronic Systems and Northrop Grumman Corp.

The Growlers, based at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington, look like imposing fighters armed to the hilt with big bombs slung under their wings ready to drop on the enemy. That's because the plane is a modified version of the F/A-18 Super Hornet. But a closer look reveals that instead of bombs, it carries an array of radars, antennas and high-tech gear.



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Workers at Northrop Grumman in El Segundo, California assemble an F/A-18 Super Hornet on January 31, 2011.

Each of the devices hanging from the Growler's wings performs a different function, including pinpointing the location of enemy radar sites, intercepting and jamming radio signals and following the changing enemy radar tactics.

"Our job is to control the electromagnetic spectrum over the battlefield," said Capt. Mark W. Darrah, Growler program manager for the Navy. "The only way you know if an electronic attack was successful is if every plane returns safely from their missions."

The proof of its success in Libya, he said, is that NATO has carried out 5,000 strike missions and no aircraft has been shot down.

The Growlers' fuselage sections are manufactured inside Northrop's 1-million-square-foot facility on Aviation Boulevard, about a mile south of Los Angeles International Airport.

Until the Growler was deployed in Libya, the Navy was still operating the Vietnam War-era EA-6 Prowler for electronic attack missions. The Growler is nearly twice as fast as its predecessor, traveling at speeds of up to 1,100 mph, and takes two rather than four people in the cockpit to carry out missions.

But as the Growler enters wartime service, work has already begun on a new jamming device for the jet to give it an even greater ability to befuddle the enemy.

Four aerospace giants are competing for a jamming device contract estimated at $2 billion: Northrop, BAE Systems, Raytheon and a team of ITT and Boeing. A total of $168 million has been handed out by the Navy to the companies for research and development on the program.

The goal is to begin producing new jamming devices on the Growler, the upcoming F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet and possibly unmanned drones by 2018, said defense analyst Thompson.

Requirements for the new jammer haven't been finalized or announced. Little is known about the details and capabilities as electronic warfare has always been shrouded in secrecy in order to stay ahead of potential adversaries.

But that hasn't stopped speculation about what's being considered and how it might be used. It is likely to give the Growler the capability to launch cyber attacks by slipping viruses into enemy computer networks from thousands of feet above, Thompson said.

This technology may have been used by Israel in a 2007 bombing of a Syrian nuclear facility, according to counterterrorism expert Richard A. Clarke, a former adviser to the National Security Council, in his 2010 book, "Cyber War."

He wrote that during the attack, Israel may have used radio waves to transmit computer data packets to the Syrian air defense network.

"Those packets made the system malfunction, but they also told it not to act, like, there was anything wrong with it. They may have just replayed a do-loop of the sky as it was before the attack," Clarke wrote. "The sky would look just like it had when it was empty, even though it was, in actuality, filled with Israeli fighters."

Another weapon under development in the nation's electronic arsenal is a 9-foot-long missile armed not with explosives but with a warhead that spews electromagnetic waves to disable and distract enemy defenses.

Work on the warheads is being done at Raytheon's sprawling electronics facility in El Segundo, Calif. Engineers there have been perfecting the electronic attack technology in underground clean rooms for decades.

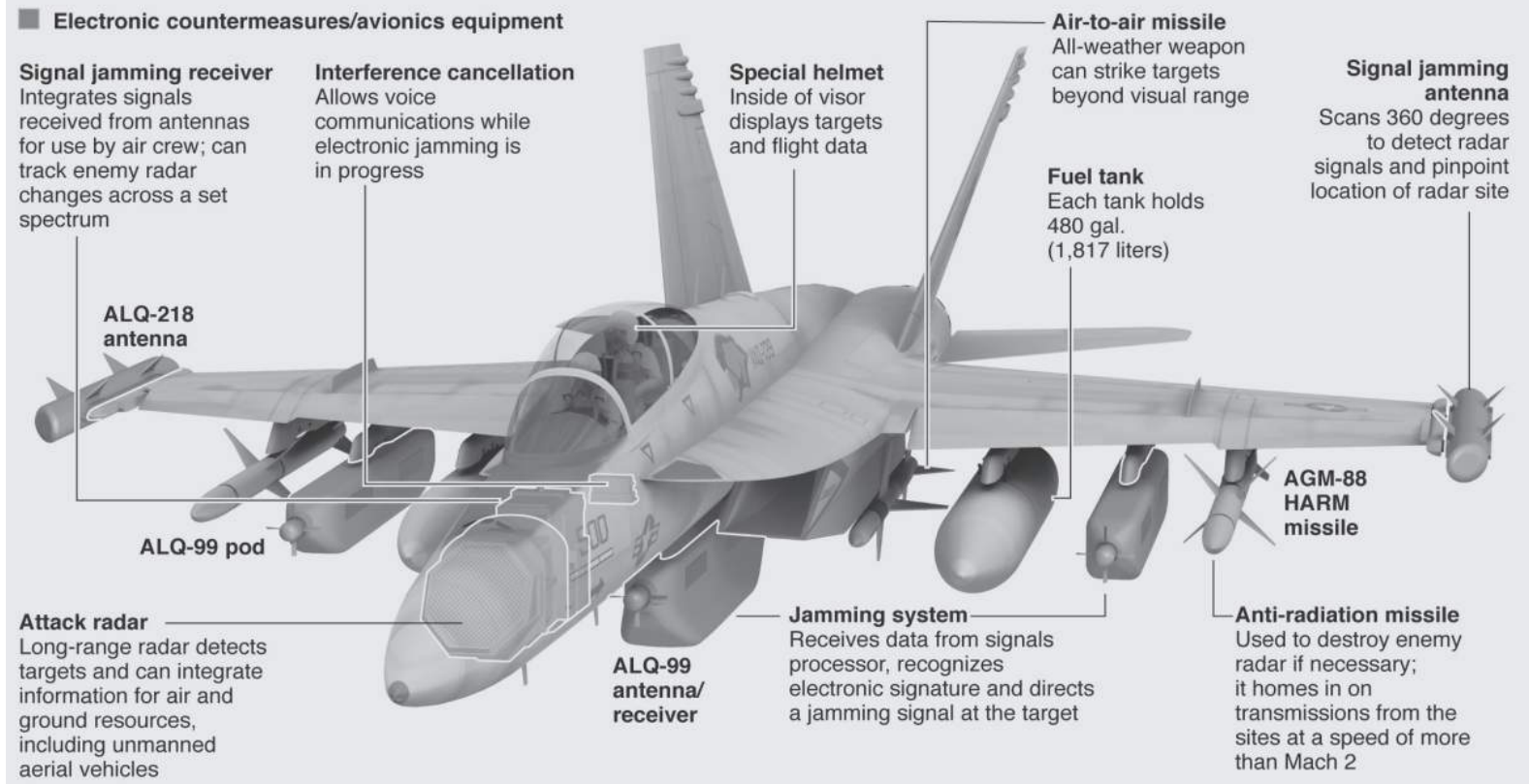
Details of the miniature air-launched decoy, or MALD, emerged recently at the Paris Air Show, where Raytheon announced the first successful test of the technology. The Pentagon has invested more than $500 million in the technology, which is being developed for the Air Force.

The missile weighs less than 300 pounds and could be carried by F-16 and F/A-18 fighters or B-52 bombers. Or they could be dropped by the dozens from massive cargo jets. Although small, the MALD's high-tech electronics make them appear to be as large as a fleet of bombers on enemy radar screens.

"This is the new generation of electronic warfare," said Jeff White, a Raytheon business development manager and former Marine Corps pilot. "The enemy should never know what's coming their way."

Providing an electronic shield

The U.S. Navy's EA-18 Growler uses high-powered radar, antennas and jammers to send and receive electromagnetic signals, disrupting and/or disabling enemy radar to protect friendly planes. Designated EA-18 for electronic attack, the Growler is a modified version of the F/A-18 Super Hornet.


Electronic countermeasures/avionics equipment
Signal jamming receiver
Integrates signals received from antennas for use by air crew; can track enemy radar changes across a set spectrum
Interference cancellation
Allows voice communications while electronic jamming is in progress
Special helmet
Inside of visor displays targets and flight data
Air-to-air missile
All-weather weapon can strike targets beyond visual range
Signal jamming antenna
Scans 360 degrees to detect radar signals and pinpoint location of radar site
Fuel tank
Each tank holds 480 gal. (1,817 liters)
ALQ-218 antenna
ALQ-99 pod
AGM-88 HARM missile
Attack radar
Long-range radar detects targets and can integrate information for air and ground resources, including unmanned aerial vehicles
ALQ-99 antenna/ receiver
Jamming system
Receives data from signals processor, recognizes electronic signature and directs a jamming signal at the target
Anti-radiation missile
Used to destroy enemy radar if necessary; it homes in on transmissions from the sites at a speed of more than Mach 2

Source: Northrop Grumman Corp., Raytheon Co., Boeing Co., ITT Corp.
Graphic: Tom Reinken, Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times
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Environment

THE CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERNSHIP

Here's something you would want to participate in

By CHRISTINA P. TUDELA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CRI intern Christina P. Tudela gets ready to mark coordinates at the Lao Lao revegetation site

I have always been interested in the study of environmental conservation, but it was not until recently that I was given the opportunity to really gain experience in that area both on and off the field. The environmental steward in me has always been apparent and my love for nature has made that possible. I have always dreamed of one day saving the world—I know, it *was* a pretty big dream. It was only later that I realized I could not do it alone. The CRI internship allowed me to help save the world in my own little way: by getting involved with a 350 climate change project and with the collaboration of DEQ, CRM, and the Marine Monitoring Team to educate me on a whole variety of topics and important information.

I applied for this internship when I saw an ad for it. I became immediately hooked. I was nervous, yet quite excited throughout the whole application process. I had to go through two interviews as well. I made it and now I am an education and outreach intern under Fran Castro from the Non-Point Source Pollution and Marine Monitoring Program at DEQ. I began the internship on June 7, 2011. Again, I have always been interested in environmental conservation work. I have recently graduated high school and completed the spring 2011 semester at Northern Marianas College. My goal is to get my associate degree under my major, Natural Resource Management. This internship will last up to Aug. 19 and I am making the best of it. As soon as I complete this internship it will be back to college for me.

We interns get involved with many other activities besides our original tasks and/or projects. The activities we have done or will partake in are: group discussions, reef flat surveys, and tree plantings. I also participated in laying out coordinates to plant trees and I will also be collecting water samples for analysis. The project that I am specifically working on is organizing a 350 event. The organization 350 is involved with getting people from all around the globe to participate in any type of event they choose, just as long as it plays a role in the decrease of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. They chose that name specifically because of what the number represents: the level of carbon dioxide in units of parts per million (ppm) that we would need to reach in order to decrease the heating of the Earth and ocean acidification. 350's goal is to encourage people to take action to lessen carbon emissions. We are currently at "388 ppm" so we still have a long way to go until we reach that goal. It is my hope that the CNMI will take part in the mass bike ride event that my mentor and I are organizing for the 350 Global Day of Action. I chose this event because biking is a fun and sustainable way to lessen our contribution to carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

In addition, my project allows me to be flexible by participating in field work doing intern group projects and the like. However, I spend most of my time organizing and formulating my project plan in the office. I am usually on the computer typing or tweaking my project details. My project takes a lot of scrutiny and careful planning. Tools that I frequently use are my logic model chart, computer, and the phone. I am also given guidance and advice by my mentor Fran, and the Coral Reef Fellow, Aric Bickel. Organizing this event takes numerous phone calls to companies to help sponsor it and design work for the advertisements. When I am out and about, I try to tell people about my project and what its purpose is. I am developing a project plan that includes scheduling all the activities leading up to the day of the event, such as the development of advertisement materials, when to contact sponsors, etc. Overall, it is a very fulfilling job.

I would like to encourage more individuals to become involved in environmental conservation work because we all need to do our part for the environment. I want to see an increase in environmental stewardship not only among adults but also in the youth. This internship is an effective way to increase awareness about our environment. It has helped to enhance my knowledge so that in turn, I could be more involved and continue to bring the message to every home in the CNMI on the importance of our environment. The CRI internship provides the opportunity to really make a difference while giving back to the community. My advice to those interested: Take this opportunity; it is not one you would wish to pass up.

Clean with care!

By JASON RAY PALACIOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Our islands' beaches and all those who call it home are important to us all. Most people do not understand the importance of our beaches and reefs and the need to monitor them. Thanks to the people at Coastal Resource Management, Division of Environmental Quality, and Division of Fish and Wildlife, our beaches and the marine life that inhabit them are well monitored. Even then, it is up to us, the community, to take action. We can do our part by cleaning up after ourselves.

I am a recent graduate of Kagman High and I am lucky to have an internship opportunity with the CRM Marine Monitoring Team under the supervision of David Benavente and Rodney Camacho. As my mentors, both David and Rodney have provided me with great knowledge and understanding of our oceans and its inhabitants. They have shown just how important it is to understand our oceans plant life and animal life.

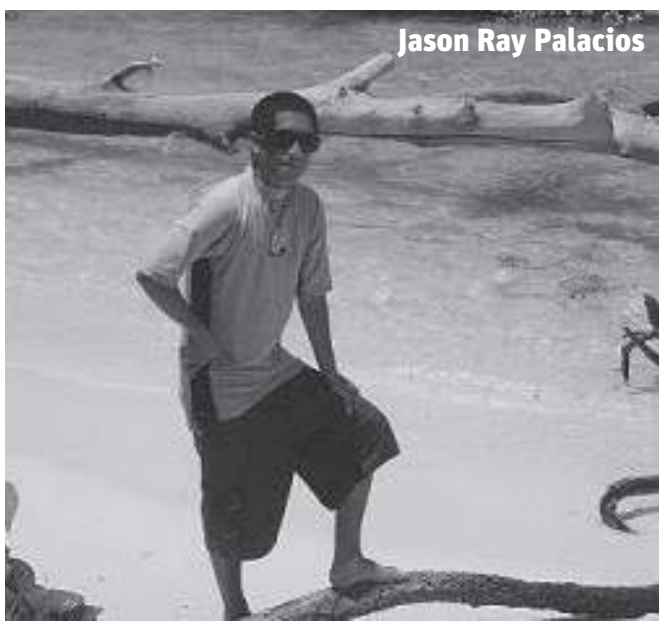
A very interesting and fun project we conduct every two weeks is reef-flat/lagoon surveys. The purposes of these surveys are to monitor and record any changes that may occur in the benthic and invertebrate community. This is done with four 25-meter transects. Both sides of the transect are recorded. Other tools we use are masks, fins, booties, and clipboards. After gathering the information the data is then logged into a database where it can be compared with previous years. A few of the beaches we surveyed were Bird Island, Pak Pak Beach, and Susupe Beach. Being that some of the survey areas can be extremely shallow, they are conducted when the tides are high so as to not damage the fragile corals.

Another project done often is a fore-reef survey that includes the whole MMT from both CRM and DEQ. The same methods apply, but other data are collected with longer transects and is conducted at least 25 feet underwater. You must be a certified open water scuba diver to take part in this survey. We take a speed boat to various sites and survey the ocean floor by scuba diving. Though I did not get to scuba dive I learned more about the different types of algae, fish, and invertebrates that inhabit our oceans. Sites like Mañagaha, Garapan, and Tinian reef were a few we surveyed.

A smaller survey we do is timed swims recording for any presence of Napoleon Wrasse and/or Bump head parrot fish. We call these fish "species of concern." We explored the reef of Obyan with a couple of volunteers hoping to find these species of fish. Typical equipment like mask, fins, and booties were needed for this activity.

I still have a lot to experience and learn in the next month of my internship, and I know it will be a fun-filled and an unforgettable experience. During my time spent as a MMT intern at CRM I have learned to be more watchful of our islands' marine life. I start college at Northern Marianas College in a month pursuing a career in business. Knowing what I know now and what I will gain as this internship continues, I will hope to minor in Natural Resources.

We can all contribute to the maintenance of our islands' beaches and reefs. It just takes a person to realize just how important it is to keep our beaches clean. Remember: Clean with care, don't leave it there.



Loss of big predators disrupts Earth ecosystem—study

WASHINGTON (AFP)—Large predators like sharks, lions and wolves are on the decline worldwide, a trend that is disrupting the Earth's ecosystem in all kinds of unusual ways, researchers said Thursday.

"These predators and processes ultimately protect humans. This isn't just about them, it's about us," said William Ripple, a professor of forestry at Oregon State University and co-author of the report in the journal Science.

The planet is currently in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, said the study by scientists from 22 different institutions in six countries.

But this one differs from previous ones because it is entirely driven by human activity—through changes in land use, climate, pollution, hunting, fishing and poaching—and is focused on large, or apex, predators.

"The loss of apex consumers is arguably humankind's most pervasive influence on the natural world," said the study.

The effects can be seen in the oceans and on land.

For instance, fewer cougars in the western US state of Utah led to an explosion of the deer population. The deer ate more vegetation, which altered the path of local streams and lowered overall biodiversity.

Another example came from Africa, where lions and leopard are being lost to poachers, leading to a surge in the numbers of olive baboons who are transferring intestinal parasites to humans who live nearby.

In the oceans, industrial whaling in the 20th century led a change in the diets of killer whales, who eat more sea lion, seals and otters and dramatically lowered those population counts.

The loss of big predators has likely driven many of the pandemics, population collapses and ecosystem shifts the Earth has seen in recent centuries, and deserves further study in the future, the article said.

"By looking at ecosystems primarily from the bottom up, scientists and resource managers have been focusing on only half of a very complex equation," said lead author James Estes, professor of ecology and evolution at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

"These findings demonstrate that top consumers in the food web are enormous influencers of the structure, function, and biodiversity of most natural ecosystems."

Life & Style

A fit frame can wear a softer fashion style

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Fitting a fit frame is not always easy.

While clothing designers and retailers have given more attention lately to finding solutions for their petite and plus-size customers, those women with athletic builds, who could be tall or short, more narrow or wide, have their own set of dressing challenges that certainly do not have a one-size-fits-all solution.

Rosy Hodge, a pro surfer, has "buff arms" that she tries to balance with colorful scarves, while fellow surfer Kassia Meador wears a lot of oversized tanks and T-shirts even though she is unsure they flatter her body type.

Rachel Roosevelt, a former member of the U.S. Ski Team, now wears mostly skirt suits to her job as a macroeconomics researcher, but nothing too short, considering her conservative career environment. She also stands 5-foot-10 (1.77 meters), and that has meant having to curl her legs in awkward positions under some conference tables.

Still, she says, she's most comfortable in sneakers and her gym clothes.

"I'm still proud of my body, and my legs are the way they are because of the hours I've spent in the gym, even if they're not what is considered 'classic beauty' in other people's minds."

Working with many real women instead of only models on photo shoots, Adam Glassman, O The Oprah Magazine's creative director, says he has noticed an increase in "the athletic type." He can't quite define it, but he says he knows it when he sees it.

"It isn't just about athletes," Glassman says. "It has nothing to do with height. You tend to have broad shoulders and a broad back, and your arms are naturally toned or you work out; the tummy is the same thing. Perhaps you have not a lot of curves with a straight waistline and square hips, thighs muscular and built calves, and a smaller bust."

AP

This undated photo courtesy of Sergio Kurhajec shows Rachel Roosevelt in an image which appears in the August 2011 issue of The Oprah Magazine. Roosevelt is wearing a Michael Kors skirt, an L.K. Bennett jacket, Noir Jewelry earrings, Kenneth Cole belt and Aldo shoes.

He adds: "You can have all of that, two of the above, part of one. It ranges from gymnasts to swimmers."

Glassman's magazine devotes several pages of its August issue offering guidance to this broad group, including Roosevelt and former college basketball player Zaklya Proctor and volleyball player Jessica Vertullo Maher.

"I think the fashion industry is stepping up to the plate in offering things for more sizes, but you still have to be willing to search," he says.

Most importantly, women, no matter their size and shape, should be looking for clothes that are comfortable and flattering with an end goal of creating a lovely, feminine hourglass shape. "We're not talking Jessica Rabbit, but you want the illusion of shoulders and hips in proportion with each other and your waist to be smaller than those."

Athletic types often have the advantage of being taut and firm, he says, but that also can leave the impression that they are tough and tomboyish. He likes to see women soften their look with ruffles, ruching, flowing skirts such as a tulip shape, a top with a defined waist or a tie at the waist, and puffy sleeves, which are trendy right now.

Belts, Glassman adds, can be flattering to an athletic figure, although you might not end up wearing them on the natural waistline. "You need to find the right thickness: Is it the Michelle Obama thick Alaia belt vs. the half-inch belt?"

Mrs. Obama knows how to show off the results of her hard work in the gym, favoring the cinched waist emphasized by that black belt that she's worn around the world as well as her famous sleeveless tops. Why would anyone want to hide the bodies they have spent so much time getting in shape, Glassman wonders.

Halter and racerback necklines are a right many athletes have earned, and a V-neck tank top is their privilege, he says, but short sleeves that hit at what is probably the thickest part of the upper arm will exaggerate the shoulder line and, most likely, make arms look thick instead of buff. (A full-length sleeve is probably OK, but a bracelet sleeve cut just above the wrist will make your arms look shorter, often a desired effect of very tall women, he says.)

Designer Adam Lippes says athletic women should probably be wearing more dresses than they are accustomed to. Either a dress with a structured top and roomier skirt, perhaps with pleats, or a draped dress, perhaps made of fluid jersey, would both be good starting points, Lippes recommends.

Fabric choices are as important as silhouette, he adds, naming stretch linen, silk or crepe as typically flattering options. "Fabric matters when it comes to how a garment fits. ... If you use a fabric with stretch, it can be really beautiful, and it can be very sexy."

Pants, Lippes acknowledges, are going to be harder to find so you need to carve out time to try on likely dozens of pairs. The good news is, he says, that once you find a brand that fits, the construction shouldn't change much from season to season.

Glassman suggests skipping the ultra-skinny jeans altogether, which will work against the effort to soften your look. Wide-leg is your better bet, he says.

Hodge, the surfer, is digging jumpsuits and maxi dresses at the moment.

She especially likes dressing up. "I spend so much time on the beach with my eyebrows crusted with salt from the water, so getting dressed up and going out is always fun," says Hodge, a Roxy Team rider originally from South Africa, in an email to The Associated Press.

Traveling, she adds, has opened her eyes to fashion. "I think finding things that complement your personality and body is important. If you don't feel comfortable in something, don't wear it, because it will reflect in the way you carry yourself."

Her teammate Meador is not quite as into clothes, however. "I do really like getting fancy when the occasion calls, and I have something rad to wear, ... but most of the time I just wanna rock some jeans and a T."

Murdoch's wife Wendi steals the spotlight

By CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Her husband was in the hot seat, but Wendi Deng has emerged as the unlikely star of a British hearing into phone hacking at Rupert Murdoch's newspapers.

Video of 42-year-old Deng jumping forward to smack a protester with a pie aimed at Murdoch's face quickly went viral, and numerous fan pages quickly popped up on social networking sites such as Facebook praising her quick rapid reflexes.

For the better part of the hearing, Deng—Murdoch's third wife—sat behind her husband and stepson, James, as they answered questions from British lawmakers. When a protester approached Rupert Murdoch, 80, with a foam pie he'd managed to smuggle in, one of Murdoch's lawyers—Janet Nova—quickly stepped in.

But it was the image of the long and lean Deng—clad in a prim pink blazer and polka dot pencil skirt—leaping forward to swat, open-palmed, at the man trying to attack her husband that stunned millions of TV viewers and presenters watching the events unfold live.

For what could be the first time, Deng's celebrity briefly eclipsed that of her husband. Within minutes of the attack, social media were abuzz with praise of Deng's heroic leap in defense of her husband.

A fan page on Facebook invited viewers to "express your admiration of Mrs. Murdoch's right hook," while tweets glowing with praise poured into Twitter and started "Wendi Deng" trending on the site.

Her life pre-Murdoch was not exactly tabloid material. Deng was born on mainland China, studied in the United States as a teenager and later graduated from the Yale School of Management.

Before she met her husband, Deng moved back to Hong Kong to work at Star Television, which is owned by Murdoch's News Corp.

Deng was introduced to Murdoch at a Hong Kong cocktail party in 1997 and she left Star TV before marrying the media mogul in June 1999 aboard Murdoch's private yacht, in New York.

Since then she has largely played the role of devoted spouse but is also the co-founder and co-CEO of the film production company Big Feet Productions.

She has two daughters with Murdoch—Grace, who was born in 2001 and Chloe who was born in 2003.

In this July 13, 2011 file photo, producer Wendi Deng attends a special screening of 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' hosted by the Cinema Society at the Tribeca Grand Hotel.

AP

Hacking scandal hits Piers Morgan

By SCOTT COLLINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

CNN host Piers Morgan is lashing back at an allegation from a British Parliament member that he participated in the hacking scandal that's rocking Rupert Murdoch's news empire.

Morgan, the host of CNN's "Piers Morgan Tonight" and a judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent," was accused of being one of the Murdoch News Corp. journalists who allegedly hacked into the voicemails of celebrities and government officials to get scoops. During the mid-1990s, Morgan edited Murdoch's News of the World tabloid, which has since been shuttered following intense criticism of its investigative methods.

Louise Mensch, a Conservative member of Parliament, attacked Morgan by name during committee hearings Tuesday, saying: "He said in his book 'The Insider' recently, and I quote, that that little trick of entering a standard four-digit code allows anyone to call that number and hear your messages," adding that Morgan had been "very open about his personal use of phone hacking."

But Morgan has dismissed Mensch's claim as "nonsense" and a "blatant lie." He says that in his book he actually wondered whether he had been a hacking victim himself and that a friend had pointed out the potential pitfall of the default code.

"The only entry in my book referring to phone hacking was when somebody warned me that my phone might be being hacked and advised me to change my pin number," Morgan told Wolf Blitzer on CNN's "The Situation Room" Tuesday afternoon.

Mensch, who also appeared on the CNN program, declined to repeat the charge, implying that Morgan might sue her. "To repeat something outside of Parliament doesn't give me that cloak of privilege, and Mr. Morgan is a very rich man," she told Blitzer. It's not entirely surprising the scandal has touched Morgan. One of the best-known celebrities in Britain, he has remained close to the Murdoch family and staunchly defended his former boss on "The Situation Room."

"Nobody proved to, I don't think, any mutual neutral observer that Rupert Murdoch had any personal knowledge of what was going on with this phone hacking," Morgan said. "It's been very damaging for the Murdoch family, for the corporation."

Morgan was fired in 2004 as editor of another British tabloid, the Daily Mirror, after photos it published that purportedly showed Iraqi prisoners being abused by British troops were proved to be a hoax.

'Hangover' star Cooper to star in 'Paradise Lost'

SYDNEY (AP)—"The Hangover" star Bradley Cooper will appear as Lucifer in a movie version of the classic poem "Paradise Lost" to be filmed in Sydney.

The government of New South Wales, where Sydney is located, announced Wednesday that the movie will be directed by Australian Alex Proyas, who also directed "I, Robot" starring Will Smith and "Knowing" with Nicholas Cage.

Paradise Lost, an epic poem in blank verse by the 17th century English poet John Milton, will be shot predominantly at Sydney's Fox Studios, and is targeted for release in 2013, said New South Wales Acting Premier Andrew Stoner.

He said the production was lured to Sydney with financial incentives from the state government, beating competition from rival locations in the United States and Canada.

"Had we not done this it would have been opportunity lost, not Paradise Lost," he said.

"Paradise Lost" tells the story of Satan tempting Adam and Eve, and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The character of Satan is the focus of the plot.

'No Country' star calls for global actors rights

GENEVA (AP)—In the 2008-film "No Country for Old Men" Javier Bardem's hitman character mercilessly collected unpaid debts with a deadly bolt gun.

When it comes to movie pirates, the 42-year-old Academy Award winner is more understanding.

"People don't have money and movie tickets are sometimes too high," Bardem told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday. "I understand that."

Still, Bardem says freeloading off others hurts the nine in ten actors who already struggle to pay the bills with their work.

"What I don't agree with is the mentality of the people, that to do piracy is fine," the Spanish actor said.

Bardem traveled to Geneva to support a new international treaty protecting actors rights across the globe. He was joined by Egyptian actress Esaad Younis, British producer Iain Smith and Indian director Bobby Bedi.

The World Intellectual Property Organization is currently hosting talks on a draft treaty that is expected to be approved by governments next year.

Bardem called for actors to get the same protection as musicians and writers, including the right to earn money from the use of their performance beyond a film's original release. He also said he wants movie tickets to be cheaper—that way even would-be pirates go to see a film at the theater once in a while.

Has he ever downloaded a film or song illegally?

"I barely can put on my iPhone," Bardem said.

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Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The final adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for a final battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux—that is, the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal—before his nefarious plans come to fruition.

Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R
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CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I've been loving this season of "So You Think You Can Dance," and it got me to wondering how one of my favorite past winners has been doing. Can you tell me what season-six winner Russell Ferguson has been up to lately?—Dominique F., via e-mail

A: Since winning the "SYTYCD" title in December 2009, Russell has been busy dancing, teaching and acting. I spoke with him recently, and he gave me the scoop: "Right after (I won "SYTYCD"), I got to perform at the Academy Awards. I've been teaching pretty much everywhere around the country: Virginia, Utah, Washington and Cali. I'm in a film called 'Battlefield America' that'll be out probably at the end of next year. It's definitely the next big dance movie."

Russell and the rest of America can re-live their favorite "SYTYCD" moments from seasons six through eight starting Friday, Aug. 5 on Ovation. The network is producing original extras featuring the judges, dancers and choreographers as they reveal their favorite moments from the show. Go to ovationtv.com for a complete schedule.

■ ■ ■

Q: One of my favorite summer movies so far has been "Thor." Any plans for a sequel?—Ted G., Allentown, Pa.

A: It just so happens that the moneymaking movie about an ax-wielding superhero is prime for a sequel, which Disney and Marvel Studios plan to deliver. Chris Hemsworth will be back to play the title character, and you can expect the sequel to come swinging into theaters in July 2013.

■ ■ ■

Q: I recently saw "A Better Life" and was really impressed by the young actress who played bad girl Ruthie. Can you tell me a little about her?—Tanya D., via e-mail

A: Up-and-comer Chelsea Rendon played Ruthie Valdez, the gang-member girlfriend of Luis. When I spoke with Chelsea, she told me she had always wanted to be an actress or performer, especially after seeing the performance of her idol, Jennifer Lopez, in "Selena." Chelsea went on to get guest parts in "ER," "Judging Amy" and "FlashForward," and she is hoping "A Better Life" will be her break into something even bigger and better.

Working with director Chris Weitz, who also directed "New Moon," has its fringe benefits, aside from getting to work with a genius. Chelsea told me: "Chris got me tickets to the 'Eclipse' premiere. I met Taylor Lautner, and I was so proud of myself for staying calm. I also got to meet Peter Facinelli and everybody else. It was so cool, because these are people that I like and look up to."

■ ■ ■

Q: I really love "The Voice." Will it be back with all four judges for another season?—Stacy S., Atlanta

A: Don't you worry—Christina Aguilera, Cee Lo Green, Adam Levine, and Blake Shelton will all be back when the musical-competition show resumes midseason on NBC on Monday nights. Be on the lookout in the new year!

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Rebecca Black debuts 2nd music video, 'My Moment'

AP

In this April 15, 2011 photo, teen pop singer Rebecca Black poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. Black debuted her second music video, "My Moment," on Monday, July 18, 2011.

NEW YORK (AP)—Unlikely viral video star Rebecca Black has released a follow-up to her first hit, "Friday."

Black's second music video, "My Moment," debuted Monday. In less than 24 hours, it was watched more than 1.9 million times on YouTube. It's also streaming on her website and is available on iTunes.

The video is better produced than her "Friday" video, which amassed more than 160 million views before it was removed from YouTube last week. Black and her team have disputed the rights of the video with Ark Music Factory, the company Black's parents paid $4,000 to produce it.

In "My Moment," the 14-year-old Black revels in her fame, with shots of her on the red carpet, in the studio and basking in newspaper headlines about her.

'Thriller' jacket to go on tour for charity

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A famed red-and-black calfskin jacket Michael Jackson wore in the groundbreaking "Thriller" music video is going on tour.

The jacket's new owner, Texas commodities broker Milton Verret, said Tuesday he plans to take the classic clothing item around the world to raise money for charities that help sick children.

Verret, who's from Austin, says he intends to line up corporate sponsors to fund the tour.

He purchased the jacket for $1.8 million last month at a Beverly Hills, Calif., auction.

The jacket is one of two Jackson wore during the filming of the 1983 video. Jackson can be seen wearing the jacket in a scene with a troupe of zombies who rise from their graves and break into a dance routine.

AP

In this photo taken May 26, 2011, a worn and signed "Thriller" Jacket that belonged to Michael Jackson is shown at Julien's Auctions, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rapper DMX released from an Arizona prison

PHOENIX (AP)—Rap star DMX has been released from an Arizona state prison after serving an extra week behind bars for failing a drug test while incarcerated. Arizona Department of Corrections spokesman Bill Lamoreaux says family members were at the facility in Yuma to pick up the multi-platinum selling recording artist Tuesday. DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, was given a year in prison in December after his probation was revoked for failing to submit to drug testing and driving on a suspended license. The 40-year-old Simmons was credited with 117 days he had already served. Simmons had been earning 20 cents an hour as a porter.

Effort to extradite Randy Quaid from Canada fails

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—A California prosecutor says U.S. officials have rejected a request to seek the extradition of actor Randy Quaid and his wife from Canada to face felony vandalism charges. Authorities in Santa Barbara have sought the couple's return for months. Senior Deputy District Attorney Lee Carter says the U.S. State Department notified him last week that it would not pursue extradition. The Quaids were arrested in September in the coastal city and accused of causing more than $5,000 in damage to a home they once owned. They were no-shows at several court hearings and were arrested in Vancouver, where the actor sought asylum from a group he dubbed "Hollywood star-whackers." Carter says the "Independence Day" actor and his wife can be arrested if they return to the United States.

Actor Ngoombujarra of 'Australia,' more films dies

SYDNEY (AP)—David Ngoombujarra, one of Australia's best known indigenous actors whose films included "Australia" and "Rabbit-Proof Fence," has died. He was 44. The actor was found in a park Sunday and died at a hospital in Fremantle, near Perth on Australia's west coast. Police have not determined the cause but said his death was not suspicious. Two of his acclaimed films were "Rabbit-Proof Fence" and "Black and White," both released in 2002 and based on true stories of Australia's indigenous people. "Australia" star Hugh Jackman said on Twitter he was saddened by Ngoombujarra's death. "His laugh, warmth and humanity will live on with all who knew him," Jackman tweeted Tuesday.

Former defense chief Robert Gates has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has a book deal. The Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group announced Tuesday that Gates had agreed to two books, a memoir and a work on leadership. The memoir, currently untitled, is tentatively scheduled for 2013. The 67-year-old Gates stepped down July 1 after serving as defense secretary for four-and-a-half years, first under Republican George W. Bush and then under Democrat Barack Obama. He presided over the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was involved in such key decisions as the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays in the military.

Newport Folk Festival sells out for first time

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—For the first time in its history, the Newport Folk Festival has sold out of tickets in advance. Producer George Wein announced Tuesday that no tickets remain for the two-day music festival. It is scheduled for July 30 and 31 at Fort Adams State Park in Newport. The festival was first held in 1959 and is known as the place where Bob Dylan went electric in 1965. The event has never sold out of tickets for both days. Organizers say some 10,000 people are expected to attend each day of the festival. Artists appearing at this year's festival include the Decemberists, Emmylou Harris, Elvis Costello and Gillian Welch.

Laura Ingraham: Jewelry stolen at NJ airport

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Radio talk-show host Laura Ingraham says $11,000 worth of jewelry was taken from her checked luggage and she believes the theft happened at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. Airport spokesman Ron Marsico says Port Authority police are investigating. Marsico says Ingraham faxed them a theft report at 7:20 p.m. on Saturday, saying she had taken a Continental Airlines flight out of Newark and discovered later that her bag had been rifled through. The report says a jewelry bag had been opened and that bracelets, necklaces, rings and a gold cross on a gold chain had been stolen. The Daily Caller first reported the theft. Ingraham told the website that the cross was from her Catholic baptism, had come from the Vatican and had been blessed by the Pope.

Dessert adds a sour ending to dinners with girlfriends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I go out to eat with my girlfriends, I usually enjoy myself until it comes time for dessert. Then I get grief if I don't order any and they do. They'll say, "Oh, you're so tiny. You can eat it." Conversely, if I do order something, they tell me, "Well, I'd love some but my metabolism isn't as high as yours."

I have never made comments to them about calorie counting, needing to work out or concern about my weight. I feel fitness is a private matter, and I'm not comfortable with mine being the topic of discussion. Is there any way to respectfully and tactfully respond to their comments or redirect the conversation?

TAKES THE CAKE IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ.

DEAR TAKES THE CAKE: The way you said it in your letter is perfect: "I feel fitness is a private matter and I'm not comfortable with mine being the topic of discussion." Either state it when they comment on what you have ordered, or say it privately to each of your friends when you're away from a restaurant. If they are friends, they'll respect your feelings.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it weird to not want to sleep in the same bed with my husband? We have an amazing, caring, fun relationship—but when it comes to sleep, I need my space while he prefers to cuddle all night. I always end up trying to push him over to his side, or telling him to please move. I know he gets offended because he's just trying to be close.

Abby, when I'm in bed with him I hardly get any sleep! He's always on my side and I can't move. It bothers me so much I end up sleeping on the couch.

Is this a bad sign for our marriage? Should I just stick it out for his sake? Our marriage is pretty close to perfect except for this one thing.

NEEDS MY SPACE IN WEST VALLEY, UTAH

DEAR NEEDS YOUR SPACE: If you haven't already done it, you and your husband should have a calm discussion about this when you're both wide awake and rested. Sleep deprivation can cause any number of problems—slow reaction time behind the wheel of a car, inefficiency at work, and serious health problems. If your marriage is amazing, caring, fun and sexually satisfying for both of you, then sleeping separately isn't a "bad sign." It's the solution.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 54-year-old woman who, after a long marriage and unavoidable divorce, is ready to date. I work out daily, am active in my church, take classes, and socialize with women and married couples. I'm in excellent shape and am told I'm attractive and fun. There are few available men my age (or a little younger or older) and almost all of them seem to be looking for women in their 40s, 30s or even 20s.

Why are men my age so unwilling to date women their age? We're past the drama years, are secure in who we are, and have a lot to offer. Am I destined to spend my life without romance? I'm an upbeat person but have lately started feeling angry at how I'm being marginalized.

MISSING OUT IN WYOMING

DEAR MISSING OUT: I can't speak for "all" older men, but many of them in our youth-obsessed culture look for women considerably younger because it helps them fool themselves into thinking they are younger than their years. You are physically, socially and intellectually active, so stop allowing yourself to be marginalized and consider dating men who are younger. It worked for Demi Moore.

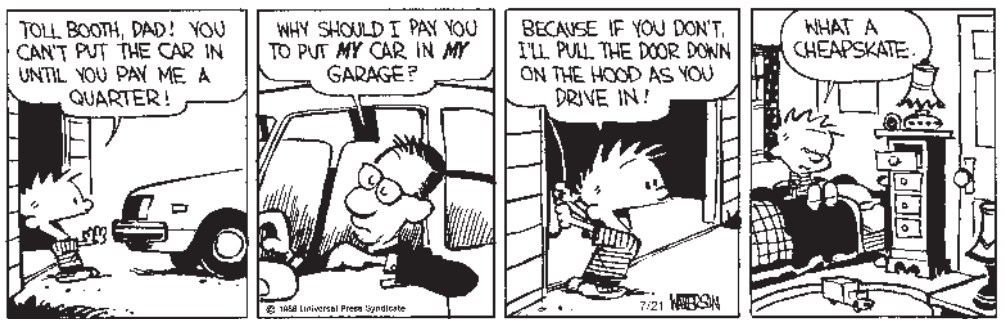
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


TOLL BOOTH, DAD! YOU CAN'T PUT THE CAR IN UNTIL YOU PAY ME A QUARTER!
WHY SHOULD I PAY YOU TO PUT MY CAR IN MY GARAGE?
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, I'LL PULL THE DOOR DOWN ON THE HOOD AS YOU DRIVE IN!
WHAT A CHEAPSKATE.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
7/21

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

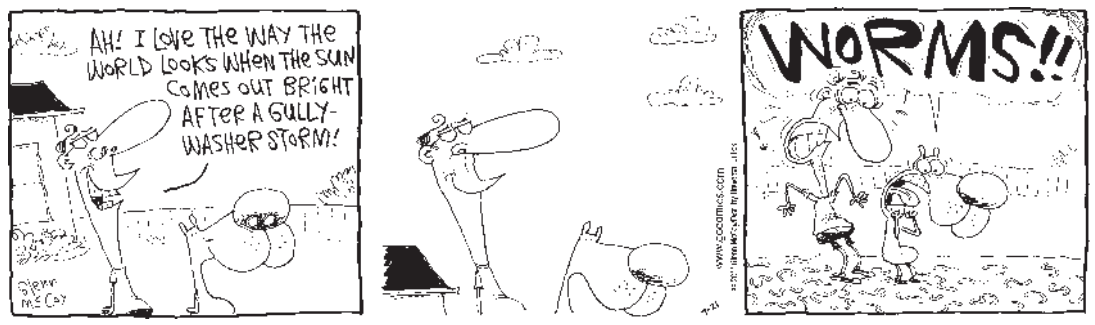
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. I CHECK THE BOX "REQUEST TRAFFIC COURT DATE." NOW PUT A STAMP ON IT AND MAIL IT OFF.
NOW... THE WAITING GAME.
THEY REALLY SHOULD THINK ABOUT SOME SORT OF UPGRADE TO "THE WAITING GAME."
© 2011 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
MARBLE
7-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


AH! I LOVE THE WAY THE WORLD LOOKS WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT BRIGHT AFTER A GULLY-WASHER STORM!
WORMS!!
GLENN MCCOY
7-21
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

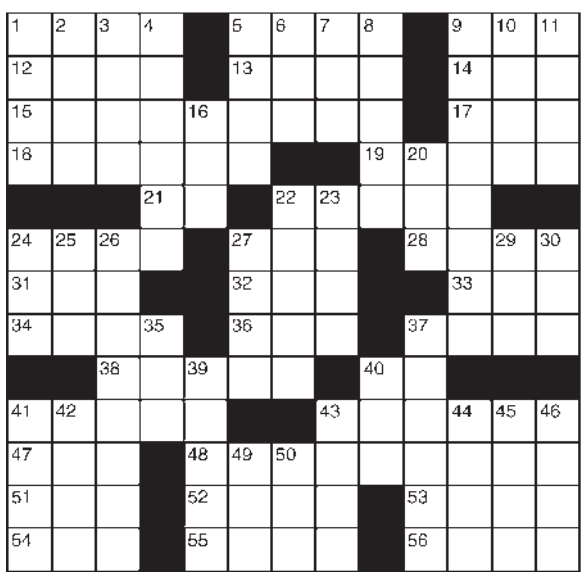
ACROSS
1 Macrame and origami
5 Spill the beans
9 Swine home
12 Old Italian money
13 Parks or Bonheur
14 Rage
15 "Animal House" event
17 Aviv preceder
18 Garb
19 "Monopoly" building
21 Therefore
22 "SNL" alumna Oteri
24 Bridge coup
27 Writer Buscaglia
28 Giant in a nightmare, maybe
31 Moray, for one
32 Under the weather
33 Towel designation
34 Post-bath application
36 Aviate
37 Halt
38 Wild West show
40 2009 Pixar movie
41 Backbone
43 Quiver contents
47 Funny guy
48 "Sleep well"
51 Potsdam pronoun
52 Sleeping
53 Merriment
54 Bumped into
55 Old letter opener?
56 Appear

DOWN
1 — Romeo
2 Urban disturbance
3 Horse's gait
4 Great cruelty
5 Cheese choice
6 Journal
7 Blond shade
8 Wash in a tub
9 Wait patiently
10 Genealogy chart
11 Holler
16 To and —
20 Acapulco gold
22 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
23 Sacred
24 Collection
25 Meadow
26 Fine
27 Biography
29 Carnival city
30 Kreskin's claim
35 Inmate
37 Parsley servings
39 "La Toilette" painter
40 Coffee vessel
41 Take to the pool
42 Gait
43 Finds the sum
44 Look lustfully
45 Roller coaster cry
46 Goblet feature
49 Sapporo sash
50 "— the ramparts ..."

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	E	T	A	■	L	O	L	■	A	V	E	S
A	V	O	N	■	I	R	E	■	L	E	A	P
V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	■	O	R	C	A
E	N	S	I	L	E	■	S	L	O	T	H	S
■	■	■	S	I	R	■	H	I	F	I	■	■
L	A	V	■	A	T	M	■	E	L	G	A	R
I	T	E	M	■	Y	O	U	■	Y	O	G	A
S	A	R	A	N	■	O	N	S	■	S	O	Y
■	■	T	R	O	D	■	S	A	W	■	■	■
W	R	I	T	H	E	■	C	L	E	A	V	E
R	A	C	Y	■	V	E	R	T	I	C	A	L
E	V	E	R	■	I	C	E	■	G	H	I	M
N	E	S	S	■	L	O	W	■	H	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 7-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bartha, 33; Josh Hartnett, 33; Jon Lovitz, 54; Robin Williams, 60.

Happy Birthday: Take a step back and consider what you want to accomplish this year. You need to have a strategy instead of casting your fate to the wind and seeing where it blows. Times are changing, and you must be willing to assess the situation and decide for yourself which route is best. Don?t limit what you can do because you lack confidence. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 25, 30, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Impulsive spending must be avoided. If you have to spend, invest in something that will help you obtain more skills and follow a more lucrative path. Opportunities are readily available, but you have to reach out and grab them. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your thoughts a secret for the time being. You have nothing to gain by displaying anger or upset. Putting time and energy into travel, learning and revamping your personal philosophy will bring greater wisdom and interesting plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20)*: You'll be busy, with plenty to discuss and to suggest. Before you get too involved, be conscious that not everyone within earshot is interested in your plans or wants to work with you. Hand-pick the people to whom you entrust your ideas. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination wander and your interaction with other people feed your mind with new possibilities. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to if you don't have a defeatist attitude. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Strategize and play it safe. Know your limits and how to make the most of your assets. There is plenty of opportunity to make critical changes that will alter your life if you make the right choices. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a mental health day or plan for an evening out with friends or someone you love. You will have an epiphany regarding your lifestyle and how you want it to unfold. Lots of changes are heading in your direction. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may be called upon for your expertise. Problems at home or with a responsibility that is dumped on you must not stop you from following through with your plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on your accomplishments and what you learn from the experience you have with others. Communication will be of utmost importance. Your ideas are excellent; now all you have to do is put your plans into motion. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get out and do your thing, but don't exaggerate or make promises you will not keep. Concentrate on your home and how you can make your surroundings more comfortable. Don't rule out any proposition that comes your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't worry too much about what others think or say. Let bygones be bygones and go about your business. Love is in the stars, and any chance you get to spend with someone you care for must be taken. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep a secret if you must. Giving out too much information will work against you or hold you back. Someone you trust will let you down. A chance to increase your income is apparent if you are willing to take action and sign up for what?s required. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will benefit the most if you socialize and network with people who have expertise in an area you want to learn more about. Romance is highlighted, and time spent with people who share your interests will lead to love. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are into everything, a pioneer who will stop at nothing. You are a do-gooder and a strong competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		9			
		4				5		
	2		6		8		7	
9		2		7		8		4
3		7		4		9		6
	6		9		2		1	
		5				2		
			3		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	2	3	5	8	6	9	7
6	3	7	9	1	2	5	8	4
8	5	9	4	7	6	2	1	3
4	1	6	7	9	5	3	2	8
7	9	5	2	8	3	1	4	6
3	2	8	6	4	1	7	5	9
2	8	4	1	6	7	9	3	5
9	7	1	5	3	4	8	6	2
5	6	3	8	2	9	4	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROCK STARS ('30 ROCK') **Solution: 6 letters**

E	D	C	A	H	E	W	S	E	I	R	E	S	R	Z
S	L	E	A	S	I	P	O	W	E	L	L	E	P	I
U	S	T	C	T	S	O	I	D	N	T	F	I	A	B
A	S	E	T	I	G	I	N	S	S	O	R	N	R	W
V	N	E	L	I	S	A	S	I	O	R	M	V	C	O
E	D	S	R	E	L	I	N	T	E	D	Y	E	E	H
W	K	A	U	D	S	O	V	L	A	A	E	N	L	S
B	R	R	E	O	G	N	L	E	W	N	A	T	L	T
D	O	I	O	A	I	E	E	D	M	M	T	I	E	R
P	R	W	T	W	F	R	A	S	P	E	D	O	S	A
F	I	O	D	E	T	O	A	A	C	A	N	N	O	N
S	R	L	K	E	R	E	H	L	O	Y	A	L	O	G
P	A	C	O	B	N	C	N	V	I	D	E	O	L	E
B	O	N	Z	T	U	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓩ	Ⓨ	H	S	T	A	R
R	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E	I	R	E	C	Y

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY DLC. BUMANGLAG, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-275**
-v-	]	**THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
LINDA DLC. TOVES, CONSOLATION DLC. TOVES, ANA C. DELA CRUZ, ANTONIO C. DELA CRUZ, RAMON C. DELA CRUZ, JOSEPHINE P. DELA CRUZ, and the Estate of MANUEL T. DELA CRUZ, deceased Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on January 26, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 21729, situated in I-Denni, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 46,660 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2038/72, registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7912, dated January 23, 1979.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, August, 24, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of July, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Orioles snap losing skid versus Red Sox

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jeremy Guthrie allowed two runs over seven innings in an effort that belied his title as the losingest pitcher in the majors, and the Baltimore Orioles beat Boston 6-2 Tuesday night to end a seven-game losing streak against the Red Sox.

Derrek Lee and Mark Reynolds hit successive homers in the eighth off Alfredo Aceves to turn a one-run lead into a more comfortable cushion for the Orioles, who lost their previous seven games against Boston this season by a combined score of 61-32.

Guthrie (4-13) gave up eight hits and walked one. The right-hander was 1-6 in his previous 10 starts and had lost seven straight decisions against Boston since May 13, 2008.

Jim Johnson worked two innings for his first save.

The Red Sox lost for only the third time in 16 games despite getting a home run from Jarrod Saltalamacchia, his second in two nights. Kyle Weiland (0-1) yielded three runs in six innings.

"Good game there. The late runs were huge for us and we played great defense," Guthrie said. "This is a win that makes me feel really good, and I think the team feels good about it."

Guthrie (4-13) came in with the sixth-lowest run support in the AL, but he also gave up 12 runs over 10 innings in his prior two starts. In this one, Baltimore went ahead 3-0 after three innings and the right-hander made the lead stand up.

It was Guthrie's second win in 11 starts, but the drought appeared even longer to some.

"It seemed like he didn't have a win since '07," Orioles center fielder Adam Jones said. "That's what it feels like. We got him an early lead and he was able to settle down, get comfortable."

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Derrek Lee (25) celebrates his two-run home run with Matt Wieters (32), who scored on the play, during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Tuesday, July 19, 2011, in Baltimore. The Orioles won, 6-2.

Rays 3, Yankees 2

At Florida, Jeremy Hellickson pitched seven strong innings and Tampa Bay took advantage of sloppy New York defense to rally past the Yankees.

Hellickson (9-7) retired 13 of 15 batters after giving up a two-run homer to Robinson Cano in the third, helping his team stay close until the sputtering Rays offense could finally break through against Bartolo Colon (6-6) in the seventh.

That's when things really went awry for New York.

With two on, center fielder Curtis Granderson lost pinch-hitter Justin Ruggiano's fly ball in the Tropicana Field roof for a single off Boone Logan(notes) that loaded the bases. It looked as though the Yankees might escape the jam when the next batter—pinch-hitter Elliot Johnson—hit a tailor-made, double-play grounder back to the mound, but the ball glanced off Logan's glove for an error that enabled the Rays to tie it at 2.

Rodriguez raced home from third for the go-ahead run on Johnny Damon's(notes) sacrifice fly to shallow center. Granderson charged in to make a sliding catch, scrambled to his feet but threw wildly to the plate.

Twins 2, Indians 1

At Minneapolis, Danny Valencia hit a two-run single off All-Star closer Chris Perez in the ninth inning, sending Minnesota to a victory over Cleveland.

Perez (2-5) walked Joe Mauer and gave up a double to Michael Cuddyer. Jim Thome was intentionally walked to load the bases, and Valencia followed with a bloop single.

Glen Perkins (2-1) picked up the win in relief of Francisco Liriano, who gave up one run and four hits in six innings.

It was a huge emotional lift for Minnesota, which was swept in a day-night doubleheader to start the series on Monday, falling seven games behind the Indians.

Rangers 7, Angels 0

At Anaheim, Alexi Ogando extended an extraordinary run by Texas' pitching staff with eight innings of four-hit ball and the streaking Rangers beat the sputtering Los Angeles Angels 7-0 Tuesday night for their 12 straight victory.

By winning the opener of a three-game series, Texas increased its AL West lead to a season-best five games over the Angels.

The winning streak is the second-longest in club history behind a 14-game run in 1991, and it has put the Rangers (56-41) a season-high 15 games over .500. They have outscored opponents 77-24 during this stretch, and the pitching staff has yielded two earned runs over the last six games—including four shutouts.

Tigers 8, Athletics 3

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera and Carlos Guillen each hit a two-run homer in Detroit's six-run fifth inning against Oakland.

The Tigers trailed 3-1 before they grabbed control in the fifth against Guillermo Moscoso (3-5).

After Magglio Ordonez brought Detroit within a run on a sacrifice fly, Cabrera hit his 20th homer of the season, putting the Tigers ahead to stay. It was his 600th career extra-base hit.

Detroit starter Rick Porcello (9-6) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings.

Moscoso allowed six earned runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Royals 4, White Sox 2

At Kansas City, Danny Duffy returned from the minors to toss seven sharp innings, Matt Treanor delivered a go-ahead, two-run single and the light-hitting Royals hung on to beat Chicago.

Melky Cabrera homered and Alcides Escobar drove in the other run for Kansas City, which came into the game batting .196 while scoring a measly eight runs during a recent three-game skid. The anemic output in part prompted manager Ned Yost to call a closed-door meeting a couple of hours before the first pitch.

Turned out the Royals didn't need a whole lot of runs with Duffy (2-4) back on the mound.

Blue Jays 6, Mariners 5, 14 innings

At Toronto, Rajai Davis stole two bases before scoring on John McDonald's sacrifice fly in the 14th inning and Toronto extended Seattle's losing streak to 10 games.

It is the Mariners' longest slide since a 12-game skid in 2008.

Davis hit a one-out single off Jamey Wright (2-3) in the 14th and stole second and third before scoring on McDonald's fly to center. Activated from the disabled list before the game, Casey Janssen (3-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Pirates 1, Reds 0

At Pittsburgh, James McDonald and three relievers combined on a six-hitter to help the Pittsburgh Pirates shut out the Cincinnati Reds for the second straight night, 1-0 on Tuesday.

McDonald (6-4) won for the first time in five starts, pitching effectively into the seventh inning before getting bailed out of a bases-loaded jam by Joe Beimel and Chris Resop.

Phillies 4, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Michael Martinez hit a tiebreaking two-run double with two out in the ninth inning, leading the Phillies to the victory.

Starlin Castro's two-run homer off Cliff Lee in the first inning held up until Philadelphia chased Matt Garza in the eighth, and Chase Utley tied with a two-run double against Sean Marshall.

The winning rally started when Marshall (5-4) yielded a two-out single by pinch-hitter Ben Francisco. Jimmy Rollins then hit a hard smash off third baseman Aramis Ramirez's glove, putting runners on first and second, and Martinez drove them in with a bloop double down the right-field line.

Mets 4, Cardinals 2

At New York, Mets shortstop Jose Reyes made a huge impact in the field in his return from a hamstring injury, turning a difficult double play with the bases loaded in the eighth inning after making a diving stop that saved a run.

Fellow All-Star Carlos Beltran also was back in the Mets' lineup after missing three games with a high fever. He hit two doubles, singled, walked twice and scored a run for New York, all while still very congested.

Padres 4, Marlins 0

At Miami, Tim Stauffer pitched six innings and four relievers completed a six-hitter for San Diego.

Ryan Ludwick and Orlando Hudson hit consecutive two-out RBI doubles in the first inning for the Padres, and that was all they needed. Cameron Maybin had two hits, an RBI and a run scored against his former team.

Stauffer (6-6) won for the fourth time in his past five starts and lowered his ERA to 2.83. He allowed four hits and walked two.

The Marlins, playing in their third city in as many days, looked jet-lagged as they went 0 for 6 with runners in scoring position. Anibal Sanchez(notes) (6-3) got the loss.

Astros 7, Nationals 6

At Houston, Clint Barmes homered and drove in three runs for Houston, and J.A. Happ picked up his first win in two months.

Happ (4-11) yielded five runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings. The left-hander was 0-7 with a 6.08 ERA in 10 starts since he beat the Mets on May 14.

Michael Bourn added three RBIs for the Astros.

Michael Morse and Jerry Hairston Jr. both homered and had three hits and two RBIs for the Nationals. Jordan Zimmermann (6-8) allowed a season-high six runs and seven hits in five innings in his shortest outing of the season.

Rockies 12, Braves 3

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez sauntered off the mound and doffed his cap to the appreciative Coors Field crowd giving him an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Was this goodbye?

If so, the powerful right-hander gave Colorado general manager Dan O'Dowd and the Rockies faithful a taste of what they'd be missing if he's indeed traded this month.

"It felt really good. It's been a long time since I got one of those," Jimenez said. "And especially hearing so many things. I don't know if that's going to be my last one here. So, it felt really good."

Jimenez brushed aside Atlanta's powerful bats along with all that trade talk, and Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez homered as the Rockies routed the Braves 12-3 Tuesday night.

Giants 5, Dodgers

At San Francisco, Brandon Belt hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning in his first game back in the majors and the San Francisco Giants finally gave Madison Bumgarner some run support at home while beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 on Tuesday night.

Belt, called up from Triple-A Fresno earlier in the day to give slumping first baseman Aubrey Huff a rest, homered in his first at-bat. He was retired his next two trips to the plate, then lined a bases-loaded double down the left-field line off reliever Hong-Chih Kuo.

Rafael Furcal singled in two runs for the Dodgers, who led early but couldn't score over the final six innings and lost their sixth consecutive game to San Francisco.

Brewers 11, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Ryan Braun returned to the Milwaukee lineup and hit the second of the Brewers' three first-inning home runs in an 11-3 rout of the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday night.

Corey Hart and Yuniesky Betancourt also homered in the first inning for Milwaukee, which won for the third time in four games to remain one game behind first-place Pittsburgh in the NL Central.

Betancourt added a two-run homer in the ninth for his first career two-homer game and Rickie Weeks had a solo shot in the third.

Chinese great Yao Ming retires from basketball

SHANGHAI (AP)—Yao Ming has made it official Wednesday, telling a packed news conference in his hometown that a series of foot and leg injuries have forced him to retire from basketball.

"I will formally end my career," said Yao, the 7-foot-6 center who became a household name in China before starting his NBA career with the Houston Rocket as the top draft pick in 2002.

Yao played eight seasons in the NBA, but missed 250 regular-season games over the past six years.

Houston general manager Daryl Morey attended Yao's farewell conference Wednesday, and NBA Commissioner David Stern sent a message via video link. Morey had to get permission from the NBA to be attend because the lockout prohibits contact with players.

"Yao Ming has been a transformational player and a testament to the globalization of our game," Stern said in a statement. "His dominant play and endearing demeanor along with his extensive humanitarian efforts have made him an international fan favorite and provided an extraordinary bridge between basketball fans in the United States and China."

Yao said he will return to work with his former Chinese team, the Shanghai Sharks, with the possibility of becoming general manager. He plans to continue his philanthropic work with his Yao Foundation.

Yao entered the conference room at a five-star hotel dressed in a dark suit, after the master of ceremonies led a count down to his arrival.

Yao's wife, Ye Li, and their young daughter, Yao Qinlei, and Yao's parents were in the room. Qinlei was dressed in a red qipao, a traditional Chinese dress.

Despite news of Yao's pending retirement being out for several weeks, the actual announcement was treated with the pomp that Yao's appearances in China bring. Media were asked to sign up weeks in advance for the conference and show up two hours early to pass through airport-style security checks.

The Grand Shanghai Ballroom was crammed at the back with dozens of television cameras and black-suited security men outnumbered the hundreds of media. China Central Television planned to carry five continuous hours of Yao coverage beginning at 1 p.m. local time, including 90 minutes live from the media conference.

Yao's contract expired after last season, and the Rockets said they were interested in re-signing him if he came back healthy. Yao said in April in China that his professional future depended on his recovery from a stress fracture in his left ankle.

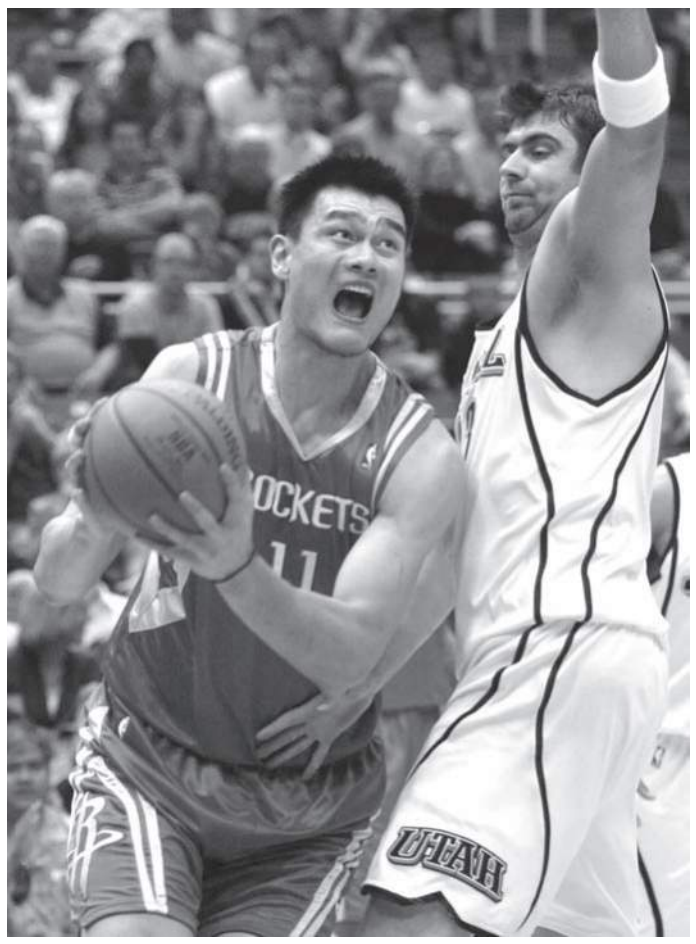
Selected to the NBA All-Star team eight times, Yao averaged 19 points and 9.2 rebounds. More importantly, his impact expanded the NBA's influence in Asia into lucrative merchandise sales and TV ratings.

After his rookie season, Yao helped the Rockets reach the playoffs in the next two seasons.

Yao played in 77 games in the 2008-09 season, when Houston reach the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1997.

But Yao broke his left foot in a playoff game against the Los Angeles Lakers, and underwent complex surgery that sidelined him for the entire 2009-10 season. He lasted only five games at the start of the 2010-11 season, before breaking his left ankle. He had surgery in January, and was lost again for the season.

Yao had played six years with the Chinese national team before joining the Rockets, and was already a star in his home country. He carried the Olympic torch through Tiananmen Square and his country's flag during the opening ceremonies at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He also donated $2 million and set up a foundation to rebuild schools in the wake of the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan.



In this May 3, 2007 file photo, Houston Rockets center Yao Ming (11), of China, swings around Utah Jazz center Mehmet Okur, of Turkey, during the first quarter of their NBA playoff basketball game in Salt Lake City. Yao has made it official, telling a packed news conference in his hometown Wednesday, July 20, 2011 that a series of injuries have forced him to retire from basketball.

NFL players review parts of deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL Players Association's executive committee reviewed only portions of a proposed deal to end the lockout and not enough to warrant a vote Tuesday, two people familiar with the league's labor negotiations told The Associated Press.

A full agreement in principle hadn't been completed as of Tuesday night, and another person familiar with the talks said there was no guarantee a full document would be finished Wednesday, either.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the process is supposed to remain confidential.

While lawyers from both sides worked on contract language in New York with a court-appointed mediator for the second day in a row, the NFLPA's leadership met for about nine hours at the group's headquarters in Washington.

"Every day the last two years has been a long day," NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith said as he left.

If the four-month lockout - the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987 - is going to end this week, in time to keep the preseason completely intact, the best-case scenario is that the players OK a new contract Wednesday, and the owners do so the next day.

Player representatives from all 32 teams were expected in Washington on Wednesday - when they could vote, if a settlement is ready for their consideration.

One of the people who spoke to the AP said lawyers for owners and players planned to continue discussions Wednesday via telephone, instead of the sort of face-to-face talks that produced so much progress last week.

The owners' labor committee, meanwhile, is set to meet in Atlanta on Wednesday. All owners are expected to gather Thursday for a special meeting when they could ratify the deal and decide to lift the lockout they put in place March 12. Executives from all 32 teams then would be briefed there Thursday and Friday on how the terms would affect league business. Clubs were told topics would include the 2011 NFL calendar, rookie salary system and guidelines for player transactions.

Still unresolved Tuesday was what it would take to get the 10 plaintiffs - including quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, Chargers receiver Vincent Jackson and Patriots guard Logan Mankins - to sign off on a settlement to their antitrust lawsuit against the NFL that is pending in federal court in Minnesota.

Late Tuesday, Jackson tweeted: "I have made no demands, I wanna play ball like the rest of my peers!"

Another pending issue has been the TV networks case, in which players accused owners of setting up $4 billion in "lockout insurance."

After joining the talks in New York for about seven hours, Hall of Fame defensive end Carl Eller thought an agreement would be reached this week. He also said retired players won't stand in the way.

After leaving negotiations, Eller headed to a meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"They want to get these games going, and they want to have a season. That's their focus," Eller said. "Our issues are very, very critical - very important - but they don't really have much to do with whether the game goes on or not."

He said "there's still a lot more to be done" when it comes to benefits for former players, but that could be resolved after the main dispute is settled.

A proposal under consideration would set up nearly $1 billion over the next 10 years in additional benefits for retired players. That would include $620 million in pension increases, long-term care insurance and disability programs.

Retired players complained to the court in Minnesota recently that they had been excluded from negotiations, which is why Eller's presence was significant.

"We weren't happy, and we hope it doesn't go back to that. We hope we stay active in the talks and we hope we continue to have meaningful talks. This clearly lets us know there's more work to be done," Eller said. "It's certainly something we want to keep going and continue the dialogue, continue to work until we have some kind of a solution."

Lawyers for the NFL and the players suing the league submitted a joint filing to the court Tuesday, asking for an extra week to file written arguments "to allow them to focus on the continuing mediation." The request, which was granted in the afternoon, noted that "the parties have also been meeting regularly since April 11, 2011, in an effort to resolve their disputes."

The country's most popular professional sports league has been in limbo since the old collective bargaining agreement expired March 11. The sides are trying to forge a settlement in time to keep the preseason completely intact. The exhibition opener is supposed to be the Hall of Fame game between the St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears on Aug. 7; the start of Chicago's training camp will be delayed even if a new agreement is in place this week, because the team needs extra time to prepare, two people familiar with the situation told the AP on condition of anonymity.

The regular-season opener is scheduled for Sept. 8, when the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers are to host the New Orleans Saints.

The lockout has resulted in pay cuts for non-playing employees around the league, and economic hardship for cities, like Cortland, N.Y., that hosted training camps in the past but won't this year. On Tuesday, the lower-level UFL - which had been hoping to start its season in the void created by a lack of NFL preseason games - announced it is delaying its season start to mid-September, a blow for a league that has lost $100 million in only two years.

Contador back in action at Tour's Stage 16

GAP, France (AP)—Alberto Contador has finally put the hammer down at the Tour de France—and now, the race is really on.

Minutes behind the race leader, the defending champion surprised key rivals with a brazen attack on a relatively easy climb in the Alpine foothills in Tuesday's Stage 16, won by Thor Hushovd of Norway in a breakaway

Contador, baring his teeth as his tires sizzled on the rain-slick roads, surged out of the pack on the mid-grade Col de Magne climb, and held on through a treacherous downhill to the finish of the 101-mile ride from Saint-Paul-Trois-Chateaux to Gap.

"I knew I needed to attack," Contador said. "I couldn't care less if someone kept on my wheel—I knew one of them would fail. I'm so happy. It has been a major gap, much bigger than I expected."

The unexpected surge by the Spaniard shook up the leaderboard at cycling's greatest race, which ends Sunday in Paris after a jaunt Wednesday into Italy, then two days in the Alps, and a time-trial Saturday in Grenoble.

Among the contenders, only Cadel Evans kept up. The Australian actually outpaced the Spanish three-time champion by 3 seconds at the end. But Contador, who lost time with crash trouble earlier in the race—had trimmed 18 seconds off his deficit to overall race leader Thomas Voeckler of France, down to 3 minutes, 42 seconds.

More importantly, the Spaniard recovered more than a minute on his runner-up at the last two Tours, Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, a top climber who almost inexplicably didn't keep up on the relatively easy final ascent.

Schleck conceded he was "disappointed," but that "there are other chances to take back time." His biggest ally—his older brother and Leopard Trek teammate Frank Schleck—said they hadn't foreseen the attack.

"We were a bit surprised that Contador went on the climb," Frank Schleck said. "We know that he is a rider that attacks when he has good legs, but we had anticipated he would wait for the Alps."

"Contador knows all too well that the Schlecks don't perform at their best in the cold and rainy conditions," he added. "It's all part of the game— knowing your opponents and knowing their weaknesses."

Contador's Saxo Bank team could hardly contain their joy.

"He put the hammer down and showed he's still there in the game," manager Bjarne Riis said. "I'm happy for that."

Aside from the aggressive Contador, the other standout of Tuesday's stage was Evans, a two-time runner-up who has so far had a nearly flawless race—and showed he's not giving up to the Spaniard without a fight.

"Today was an opportunity for us to see what could happen," said Jim Ochowicz, manager of Evans' BMC squad. "We assumed that at some point Contador was going to try to take some time back. His move, when he made it, was the perfect opportunity for Cadel to counter."

Voeckler, a dogged Frenchman who has been one of the revelations of this year's Tour, knows that Contador is often better than he is in mountain climbs and the time-trial—and expects to lose the yellow jersey soon.

"I kept it by a handful of seconds, but that shows that I've hit my ceiling," he said.

IT&E Incredibles wins Agingan Bud Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the IT&E Incredibles pose for a group photo after defeating the Docomo Hustlers, 4-1, in the Bud Cup finals of the 2011 Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League last week at Utopia Sports Bar.

IT&E Incredibles of Jonny's Bar & Grill defeated the Docomo Hustlers, 4-1, last week at Utopia Sports Bar to win the Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League's Budweiser Cup in the Agingan division.

Team members include captian Mark Butac, Eric Caisit, James Wabanga, Dean Borja, and Chester Hamoy. IT&E finished runner-up in the regular season of the four-team field.

In the Obyan division, second-ranked Fotten Palau was scheduled to face the Turtles of USSP Peleliu Club at VFW Post 3457 Tuesday night to see who hoists the Obyan division cup. Six teams make up the division.

Last week, the fifth-ranked and visiting Turtles knocked out the last place Pirates of D'Pirates Bar & Grill, 4-3, on the road to advance to the finals, while Fotten Palau skunked X-Tream, 4-0, on the road at VFW Post 3457.

The SBA awards ceremony will be held on July 31 at Charlie's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

Mar-Pac Budweiser sponsors the league.

Meanwhile, registration forms for the Summer/Fall 2011 season are available at the Pacific Amusements office in Garapan next to QQ Car Rental. Deadline for registration is set for August 9.

HEO

From Page 28

match because I had to leave for Austria. They did the planning of the matches quite late and I could play only one match so I gave it away in the middle of the match when I was winning," Heo added.

In Austria, the 19-year-old Heo joined the Austria F3 Futures 2011, which awards $10,000 to the winner. Heo was in the qualifying draw of the clay tournament at the Tennisclub Fieberbrunn in Lauchseeweg and was pitted against the host's Michael Eibl. The CNMI netter lost the opening set, 1-6, and was beaten in straight sets, but played better in the second set, losing by only two games, 5-7.

"The Austrian I played against was much better moving around and playing on clay. I didn't play so well, but it was a good experience. I was down 5-1 and caught up to 5-5, but made a few stupid mistakes to lose the second set," Heo said.

The CNMI bet also joined the doubles competition and teamed up with the U.S.' Cameron Spearman. Heo and Spearman bowed to Czech Republic's Marek Michalicka and David Pultr, 6-1, 3-1 (retired).

Next up for Heo will be next month's Slovakia F1 Futures 2011 in Piestany, Slovak Republic, but he will be in Germany first to train and watch a couple of games at the German Open.

"I'm heading to Germany to train a bit in Braunschweig as well as watch the German Open Tennis Championships 2011 (ATP 500) tournament in Hamburg. After that I'll head to the Czech Republic to train with my HPU teammate for a bit and play another Futures in Slovakia. This is also a $10,000 event that gives out ranking points. I'll play in the qualifying draw again and hopefully make the doubles as well," the Marianas High School graduate said.

ITF Futures are series of tennis tournaments held by the ITF Men's Circuit throughout the world. It allows players to win career titles and improve their rankings. The events also hold qualifying rounds for players who are not ranked, but want to gain ATP ranking points.

PARTY

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a deadlock, 24-all. Mix-A-Lot managed to stay in the game in the first half behind Lalaine Pagarao's 13 points and Madeleine Alegre's eight markers.

Alegre continued to pile up points early in the second half, scoring Mix-A-Lot's first six appoints. However, Johnson answered with also six of Party Rockers' first 10 points in that period to keep the game close.

Then midway in the second half, Castillo hit back-to-back triples, while Johnson added six more points to keep Party Rockers in the lead.

Pagarao, who exploded for 53 points in their 63-70 loss to the Lazy Buttsss last Monday, slowed down in the second half of their match over Party Rockers, nailing only eight points. Alegre also went cold, as she was held to only two field goals after drilling six straight markers at the start of the second half.

Mix-A-Lot dropped to a 3-4 record, sharing the second spot with Aye Par Battay and behind by three wins over the league-leading Party Rockers.

The Lazy Buttsss is slowly catching up in the group, as it now has a 2-5 record with two games left in the three-round robin competition. The Lazy Buttsss won over Aye Par Battay, 77-66, last Friday, for its first win. Then last Monday, the Lazy Buttsss gained its second straight victory after topping Mix-A-Lot.

Ira Palero anchored Lazy Buttsss' win over Aye Par Battay, firing 27 points. She logged 15 of then in the first half to lift the Lazy Buttsss to a big 42-25 lead. The Lazy Buttsss did a great job protecting the driver's seat in the second half, as Daylinne Joseph, Elilai Pialug, and Marie Javie also stepped up on offense.

The regular season of the women's league are expected to be completed this week and organizers will meet today to discuss the format for the playoffs.

Friday's Game

Lazy Buttsss 77 – Palero 27, Joseph 14, Javier 10, Pialug 10, Lizardo 8, David 4.

Aye Par Battay 66 – Castillo 21, Palero 21, Arboliras 14, A. Ito 10.

Scoring by halves: 42-25, 77-66.

Tuesday's Game

Party Rockers 55 – Castillo 22, Johnson 18, Ito 8, Gozon 2, Lebria 2, Abrams 2.

Mix-A-Lot 48 – Pagarao 20, Alegre 18, Mesa 4, Hofschneider 4, Palacios 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-24, 55-48.

ROUSING

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Marie Javier had a hat-trick for Shirley's B, making all her three goals in the first half for the team's commanding 8-0 lead.

Nicole Arboliras, Marielle Gariguez, and Reylynn Sapong connected on two goals apiece, while Alexa Vergara, Jeralyn Castillo, and Ira Palero logged one each for Shirley's B shutout win.

In the other women's game, Shirley's A was also unforgiving, clobbering Red Team, 15-1.

Jeraldine Castillo was all over the pitch and scored six goals, the most so far by any player after two days of competition. Melody Johnson was also unstoppable for Shirley's A, as she canned four goals. Irish Pagarao made three, while Angie Ito tallied two.

Roxie Lamar posted the lone goal for Red Team, which played in its debut with a depleted lineup.

Four games were played in the second day of the inaugural league with the other men's division match between IT&E Men and Mellow Yellow resulting to a 10-7 win for the former.

Mikky scored five goals for IT&E, which drew three goals from Seong Joon Lee and one each from Nathan Tan and Joshua Borja.

The game was tied at halftime, 3-all, before Lee found the back of the net three times in the second half and Mikky added two to lift IT&E to a win.

Young Sin Lim had a hat-trick in Mellow Yellow's losing cause. Allen Mijares chipped in two, while Gabriel Arkoh and Jeb Nogis had one each.

Saipan Cyclers MTB, road race set for July 31

The Saipan Cyclers Association will be holding the MTB & Road Race II on July 31 at Paupau Beach.

The race is open to three divisions: MTB full and short course, and road bike course. Registration starts at 6am and the race begins at 7am. Entrance fee is only $10.

Bikers competing in the MTB full course will start at Paupau and then head to Banzai trail, Cowtown, Santa Clause lane (Grotto trail), and Autobahn and Kimikaze trails, turn left, go down to the road heading to Suicide cliff, turn left again on the jeep road behind the golf course, turn right on the trail that leads to the road to the golf course (before the million gallon tank), turn another left at the bottom of the hill, and head back to Paupau.

For the MTB short course, after the Santa Clause lane, riders will turn right on the pave road and then back to Paupau.

For the road bike category, the race will also start at Paupau and riders will go up to Radar Station, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before going back to the starting line. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 28

The 13-year-old swimmer will only have a day rest after joining the 400m freestyle race, as she is scheduled to swim in the 200m freestyle qualifying heat on July 26, also at 9am.

Next to compete for the CNMI in the World Championships is Wong, who is entered in the 200m individual medley qualifying heat slated on July 27 at 9am. Wong holds the CNMI record in the 200m IM at 2:11.89.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swim team member will complete his third World Championship stint through the 200m breaststroke race set for July 28. Wong also owns the CNMI mark in the 200m breaststroke at 2:24.94.

Kimball will debut in the World Championship on July 28 via the 100m freestyle race. The 15-year-old swimmer will aim to surpass her PBT in the 100m freestyle, which stands at 1:08.09. Kimball's last event will be the 50m freestyle on July 30. Her best time in that sprint race is 30.64 seconds.

The swimming competition will run from July 24 to 31 with 40 gold medals at stake in the pool events. Diving, synchronized swimming, water polo, and open water swim had already started last Sunday. Over 2,000 athletes from 181 countries are competing in the World Championships and host China so far leads the medal standings with its 6-5-0 gold-silver-bronze medal tally. Russia is at second with its 3-1-1 count, while Greece occupies the third spot with its one gold and one bronze. Great Britain is only the fourth country so far to win a gold medal in the Shanghai tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	58	37	.611	–
New York	56	38	.596	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	51	44	.537	7
Toronto	48	49	.495	11
Baltimore	39	55	.415	18 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	51	45	.531	–
Detroit	51	45	.531	–
Chicago	47	50	.485	4 1/2
Minnesota	45	51	.469	6
Kansas City	39	58	.402	12 1/2

West Division

Texas	56	41	.577	–
Los Angeles	51	46	.526	5
Seattle	43	53	.448	12 1/2
Oakland	42	55	.433	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	60	36	.625	–
Atlanta	57	40	.588	3 1/2
New York	48	48	.500	12
Washington	48	49	.495	12 1/2
Florida	47	50	.485	13 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	51	44	.537	–
Milwaukee	52	46	.531	1/2
St. Louis	50	46	.521	1 1/2
Cincinnati	47	50	.485	5
Chicago	39	59	.398	13 1/2
Houston	32	65	.330	20

West Division

San Francisco	57	41	.582	–
Arizona	52	45	.536	4 1/2
Colorado	46	51	.474	10 1/2
Los Angeles	42	55	.433	14 1/2
San Diego	42	55	.433	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 0
San Diego 4, Florida 0
N.Y. Mets 4, St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 4, Chicago Cubs 2
Houston 7, Washington 6
Colorado 12, Atlanta 3
Milwaukee 11, Arizona 3
San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 3
Baltimore 6, Boston 2
Detroit 8, Oakland 3
Toronto 6, Seattle 5, 14 innings
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 2
Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Minnesota 2, Cleveland 1
Texas 7, L.A. Angels 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 Saipan Electronic Dart Association Winners

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Players of Bar Gaia's Gaiana-C pose for a group photo after accepting their Wednesday C-Chichirika Bud Light Cup trophies.

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Kanto Boyz receive the A division Bud Light Cup trophies.

Buddies' Bar & Grill's Wild Shooters accept the first place trophies.

Members of Aschooschoo show their trophies in the Ladies division.

Players of Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's No Fear pose for a group photo after accepting their Thursday B-Flame Tree Bud Light Cup trophies.

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Yakau players pose for a group photo after accepting their Ladies Division Bud Light Cup trophies.

Far left, players of IT&E Kamote's of Jonny's Bar & Grill pose for a group photo after accepting their Thursday B Fanihi Bud Light Cup trophies during the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's awards banquet held last Sunday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Left, the "Top Guns" of all divisions pose for a group photo.

Right, Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG players celebrate their victory in the C-Kingfisher Bud Light Cup division.

Far right, the most valuable players in all divisions receive plaques.

Chinese great Yao Ming retires from basketball

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Orioles snap losing skid vs Red Sox

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Heo participates in Europe Futures

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After debuting in the NCAA Regionals in May, former CNMI top junior player Ji Hoon Heo is now competing in the ITF Europe Futures.

"I've been in Europe since July 7 and been traveling and playing some tennis while on vacation as well," Heo said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*." I was at Helsinki in Finland, Copenhagen in Denmark , Lund, Bjarred, Malmo, Bastad, and Helsingborg in Sweden, and Innsbruck and Fieberbrunn in Austria."

"I played a local tournament in Helsingborg, Sweden but had to default after my first

Ji Hoon Heo, seen going for a backhand return while playing for Hawaii Pacific University in the NCAA Division II, is now in Europe for the ITF Futures events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI starts World Championships campaign Sunday

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Kimball will be debuting in the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China next week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will be seeing action in 14th FINA World Championships starting this Sunday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center.

Victoria Chentsova will be the first CNMI swimmer to compete in the biennial event, as she joins the qualifying heat for the 400m freestyle race on July 24 at 9am (11am Saipan time). Chentsova and fellow swimmers Rezne Wong and Grace Kimball and coach Michael Villagomez left Saipan yesterday for a connecting flight to the Philippines and are expected to reach Shanghai this morning.

The list of qualifying heats for the 400m freestyle race has yet to be released, but once she competes in the qualifier, Chentsova will be gunning to eclipse her personal best time in the event (5:16.62.).

See CNMI on Page 26

Party Rockers widen lead in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Party Rockers stretched their lead to three wins in the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League after defeating Mix-A-Lot, 55-48, in a make-up game at the TSL Sports Complex Tuesday night.

Jeraldine Castillo led Party Rockers' sixth win in seven games, as she sizzled for 22 points, with 15 of them coming from downtown. Her fifth triple of the night came in the crucial stage of the match and was followed by a two-pointer, allowing Party Rockers to eke out a seven-point win. Castillo scored Party Rockers' last five points.

Melody Johnson also delivered for Party Rockers with her 18 points, making 12 of them in the second half where her team played better after engaging Mix-A-Lot in a tight match in the first half.

The first 20 minutes of play ended in

See PARTY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Party Rockers' Melody Johnson, left, keeps the ball away from Mix-A-Lot's Nikita Hofschneider during their meeting in the second round of the BANMI women's caging early this month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Rousing futsal debuts for 3 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three teams got off to strong starts in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League after routing separates foes on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the first men's division game, Go Green blanked the Thundercats, 7-0, to join opening-day winners Wild Bill's and Korean Futsal Team in the win column of the eight-team field.

Panapa Peteru lifted Go Green to a big win, as he scored four goals in their debut game. He put Go Green in the scoreboard in the first half and then had a hat-trick in the second half to complete the team's demolition of the Thundercats.

Also scoring for Go Green were Ruselle Zapanta, Lee Epperson, and Fradel Sedillo.

In the women's division, sister teams Shirley's A and B whipped their separate opponents.

In the first women's game, Shirley's B crushed IT&E Blossom, 12-0.

See ROUSING on Page 26

Shirley's A and Red Team players exchange hi-fives after their game in the women's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO